non non biyori

8

story & art

ATTO

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non non biyori

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CHARACTERS

Koshigaya Natsumi
Seventh grader. She has a cheerful personality and is the class mood-maker. She likes pranks and making holes in her house's walls, among other things.

Miyauchi Renge
First grader, the youngest student at Asahigaoka Branch School. She has a unique way of speaking, and spouts one piece of seemingly wise nonsense after another. Her pet tanuki's name is Pon Poko.

Ichijo Hotaru
Fifth grader who transferred to Asahigaoka from Tokyo. She's so mature that it's hard to believe she's just a fifth-grader, and the neighborhood busybodies are always trying to set her up with prospective husbands.

Koshigaya Komari
Natsumi's older sister, eighth grader. She's the oldest female student at Asahigaoka Branch School. It bothers her that she isn't even 140 cm (4'5") tall.

Koshigaya Suguru
Ninth grader. He is Natsumi and Komari's older brother, and the oldest student at Asahigaoka Branch School. He doesn't really make his presence felt...

Miyauchi Hikage
Renge's older sister. Lives in Tokyo.

Fujimiya Konomi
Twelfth grader. Koshigayas' neighbor.

Miyauchi Kazuho
Teacher. 24 years old. Renge's older sister.

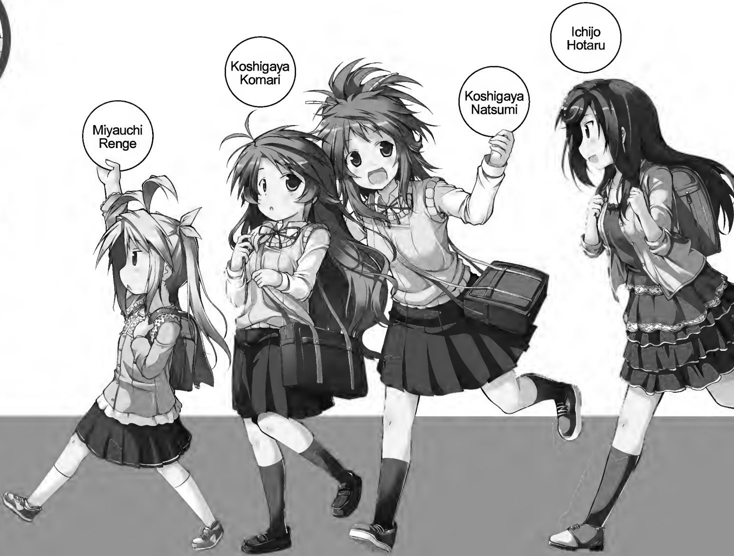
Koshigaya Yukiko
Mother of Natsumi, Komari, and Suguru.

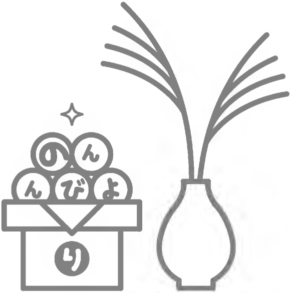
Kagayama Kaede
20 years old. Graduate of Asahigaoka Branch School. Currently manages a sweet shop.

The Story Up To Now

The Asahigaoka Branch School, in an area that is so rural it easily qualifies as the middle of nowhere, has just five students, elementary and junior high combined. Hotaru has transferred into this rural school from Tokyo and is about to mark her first full year there. She's helped plant rice, been challenged by dares, enjoyed the school festival, and paid a new-year visit to the local shrine. As long as she has her friends, Hotaru feels right at home.

A rural school, peaceful days, good times with good friends...the quiet joy of the *Non Non Biyori* life.

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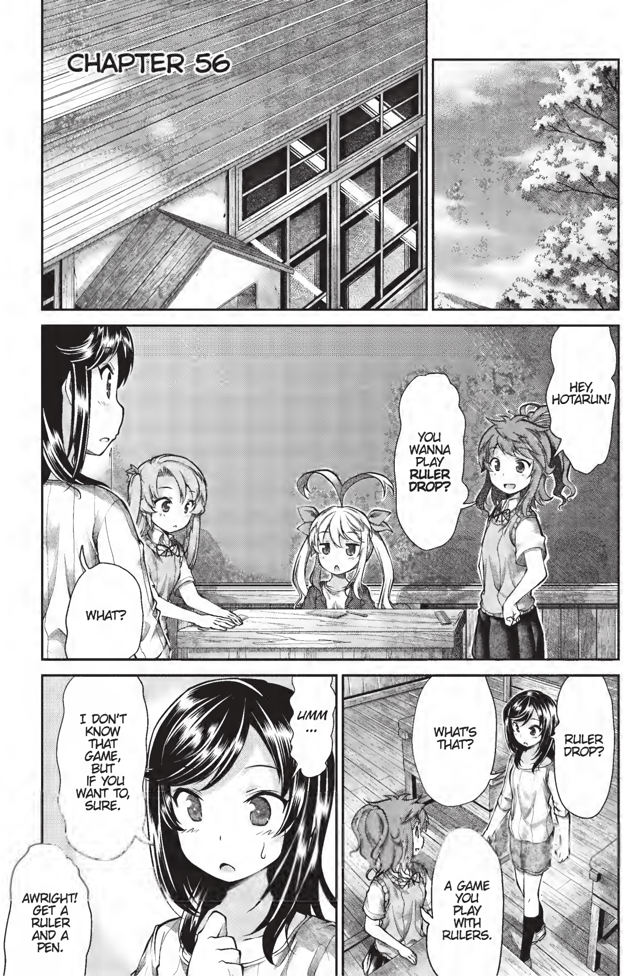
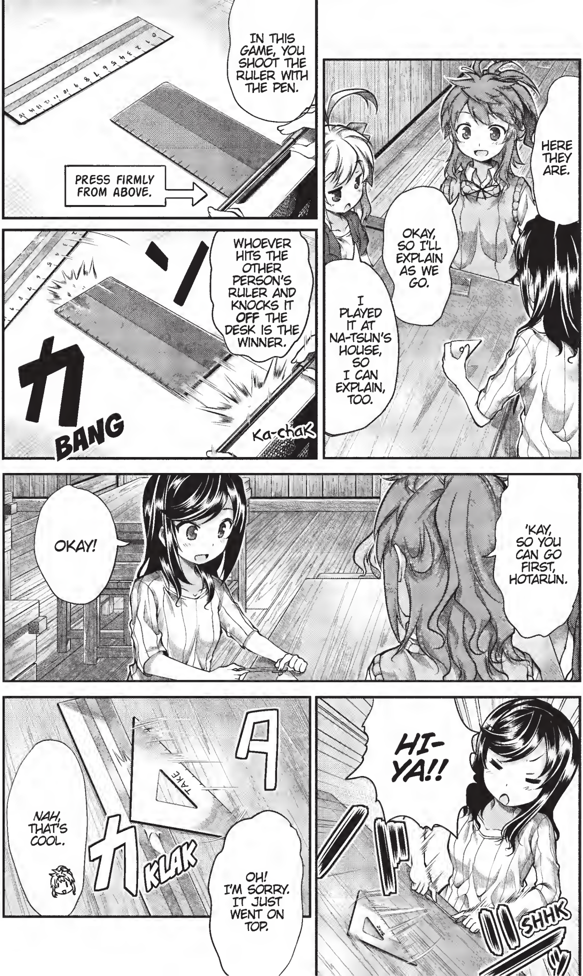
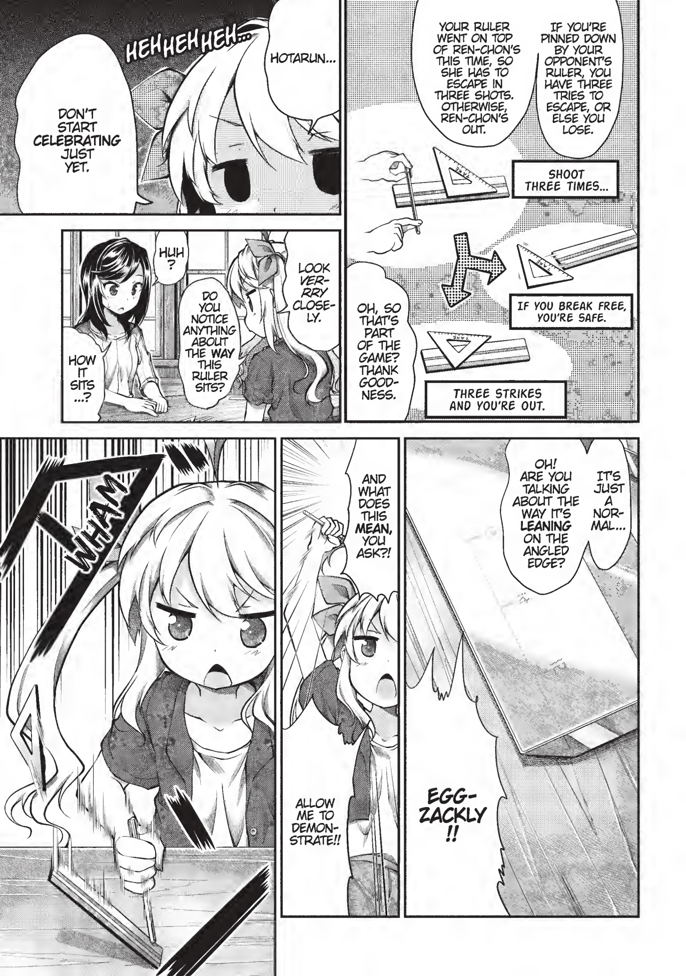
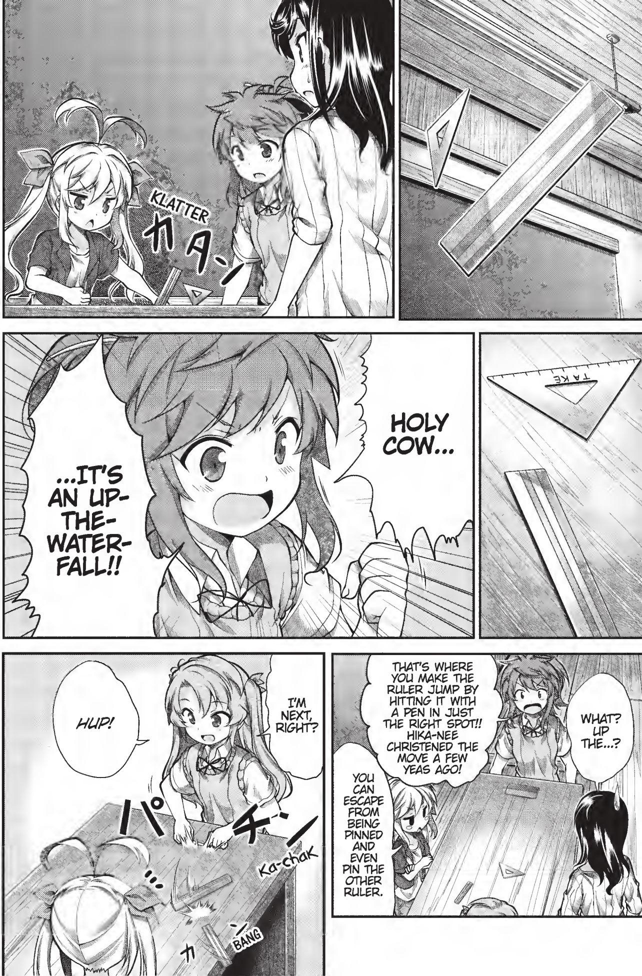
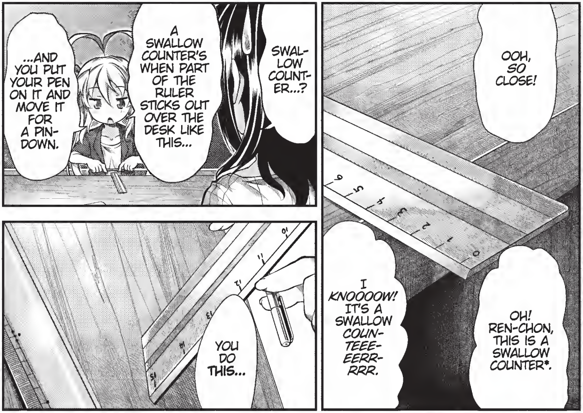
CHAPTER 56


HEY, HOTARUN!
YOU WANNA PLAY RULER DROP?
WHAT?
RULER DROP?
WHAT'S THAT?
A GAME YOU PLAY WITH RULERS.
UMM ...
I DON'T KNOW THAT GAME, BUT IF YOU WANT TO, SURE.
AWRIGHT! GET A RULER AND A PEN.

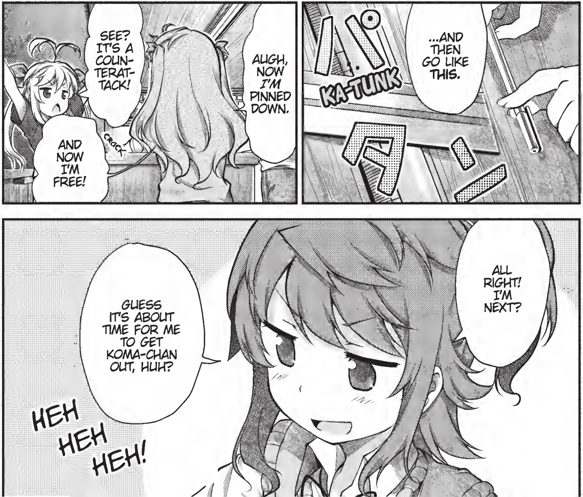

HERE THEY ARE.
OKAY, SO I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE GO.
I PLAYED IT AT NA-TSUN'S HOUSE, SO I CAN EXPLAIN, TOO.
IN THIS GAME, YOU SHOOT THE RULER WITH THE PEN.
PRESS FIRMLY FROM ABOVE.
WHOEVER HITS THE OTHER PERSON'S RULER AND KNOCKS IT OFF THE DESK IS THE WINNER.
ン
カ
BANG
Ka-chak
'KAY, SO YOU CAN GO FIRST, HOTARUN.
OKAY!
HI-YA!!
SHHK
タ
TAKE
カ
KLAK
OH! I'M SORRY. IT JUST WENT ON TOP.
NAH, THAT'S COOL.


IF YOU'RE PINNED DOWN BY YOUR OPPONENT'S RULER, YOU HAVE THREE TRIES TO ESCAPE, OR ELSE YOU LOSE.
YOUR RULER WENT ON TOP OF REN-CHON'S THIS TIME, SO SHE HAS TO ESCAPE IN THREE SHOTS. OTHERWISE, REN-CHON'S OUT.
SHOOT THREE TIMES...
TAKE
IF YOU BREAK FREE, YOU'RE SAFE.
THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT.
OH, SO THAT'S PART OF THE GAME? THANK GOODNESS.
HOTARUN...
HEHHEHHEH...
DON'T START CELEBRATING JUST YET.
LOOK VERRRY CLOSELY.
HUH?
DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ABOUT THE WAY THIS RULER SITS?
HOW IT SITS ...?
IT'S JUST A NORMAL...
OH! ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE WAY IT'S LEANING ON THE ANGLED EDGE?
EGG-ZACKLY!!
AND WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, YOU ASK?!
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE!!
WHAM


KLATTER
カタ-ン
TAKE
HOLY COW...
...IT'S AN UP-THE-WATERFALL!!
WHAT? UP THE...?
THAT'S WHERE YOU MAKE THE RULER JUMP BY HITTING IT WITH A PEN IN JUST THE RIGHT SPOT!! HIKA-NEE CHRISTENED THE MOVE A FEW YEAS AGO!
YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM BEING PINNED AND EVEN PIN THE OTHER RULER.
I'M NEXT, RIGHT?
HUP!
パチーン
Ka-chak
...!
カ
BANG


OOH, SO CLOSE!
OH! REN-CHON, THIS IS A SWALLOW COUNTER*.
I KNOOOOW! IT'S A SWALLOW COUNTEEEEERRRRR.
SWALLOW COUNTER...?
A SWALLOW COUNTER'S WHEN PART OF THE RULER STICKS OUT OVER THE DESK LIKE THIS...
...AND YOU PUT YOUR PEN ON IT AND MOVE IT FOR A PIN-DOWN.
YOU DO THIS...

*A swallow (meaning the bird) counter (meaning counterattack) is a martial arts move.

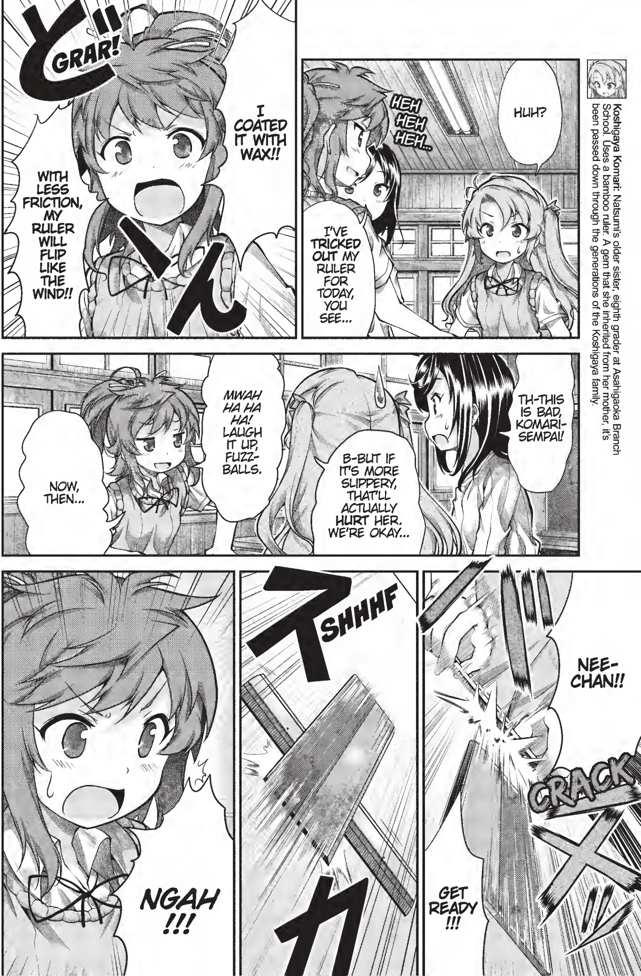

...AND THEN GO LIKE THIS.
パ
KA-TUNK
タン
AUGH, NOW I'M PINNED DOWN.
SEE? IT'S A COUNTERATTACK!
CRACK
AND NOW I'M FREE!
ALL RIGHT! I'M NEXT?
GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO GET KOMA-CHAN OUT, HUH?
HEH HEH HEH!

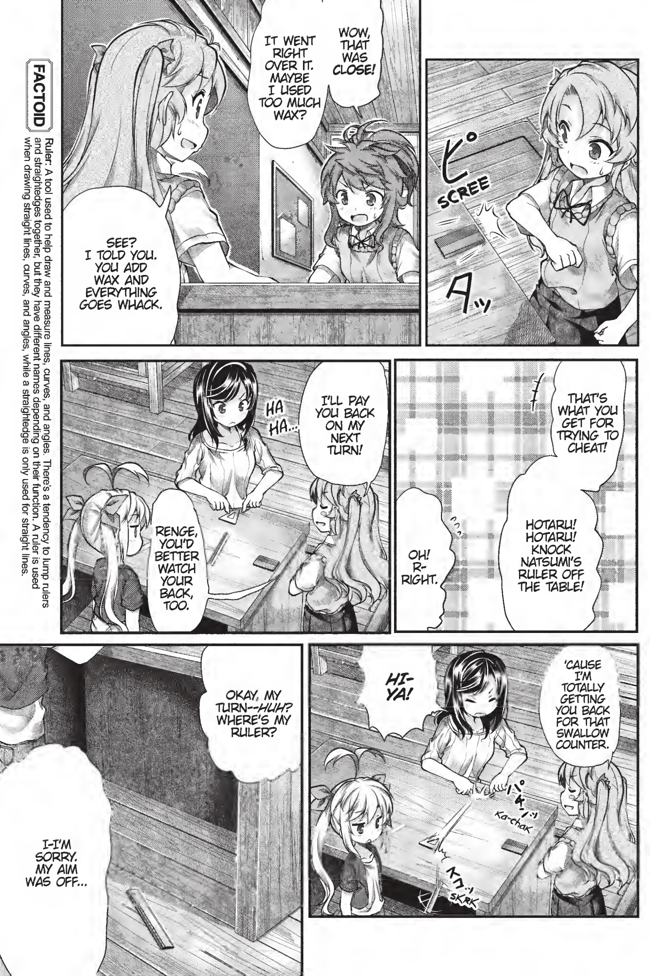
Koshigaya Natsumi: Seventh grader at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses a green/red memorization ruler (which blocks the red answers in the textbook). Never once has she used it as originally intended.

Miyauchi Renge: First grader, the youngest of the five students at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses an orthodox plastic ruler. Also uses it for arithmetic.

Ichijo Hotaru: Fifth grade transfer student from Tokyo. Uses an isosceles triangle ruler from a ruler set. It was selected with balance in mind.

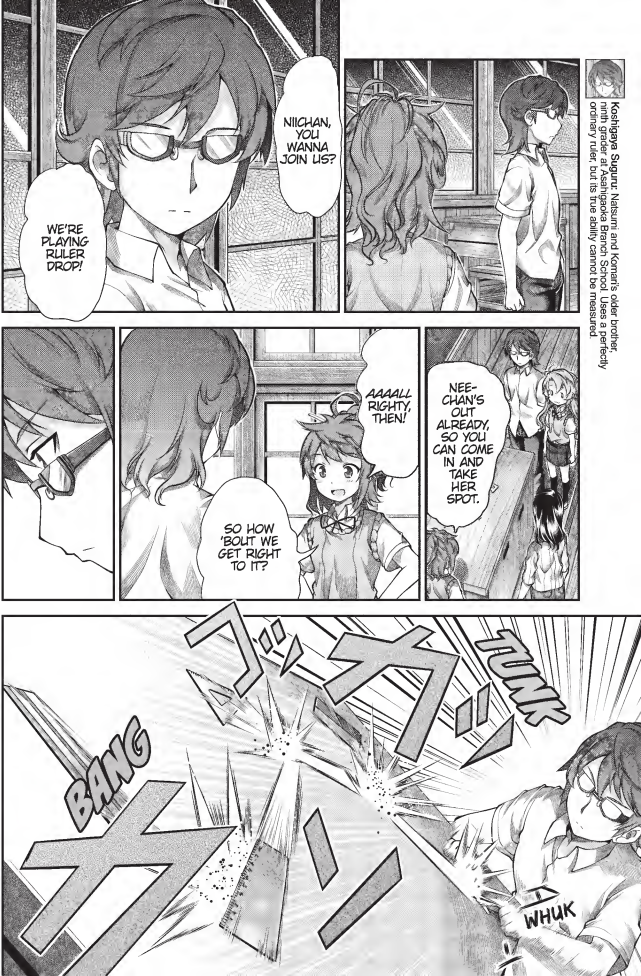
Koshigaya Komari: Natsumi's older sister, eighth grader at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses a bamboo ruler. A gem that she inherited from her mother, it's been passed down through the generations of the Koshigaya family.


HUH?
HEH HEH HEH...
I'VE TRICKED OUT MY RULER FOR TODAY, YOU SEE...
GRAR!
I COATED IT WITH WAX!!
WITH LESS FRICTION, MY RULER WILL FLIP LIKE THE WIND!!
TH-THIS IS BAD, KOMARI-SEMPAI!
B-BUT IF IT'S MORE SLIPPERY, THAT'LL ACTUALLY HURT HER. WE'RE OKAY...
MWAH HA HA HA! LAUGH IT UP, FUZZ-BALLS.
NOW, THEN...
NEE-CHAN!!
CRACK
GET READY!!!
SHHHF
NGAH!!!

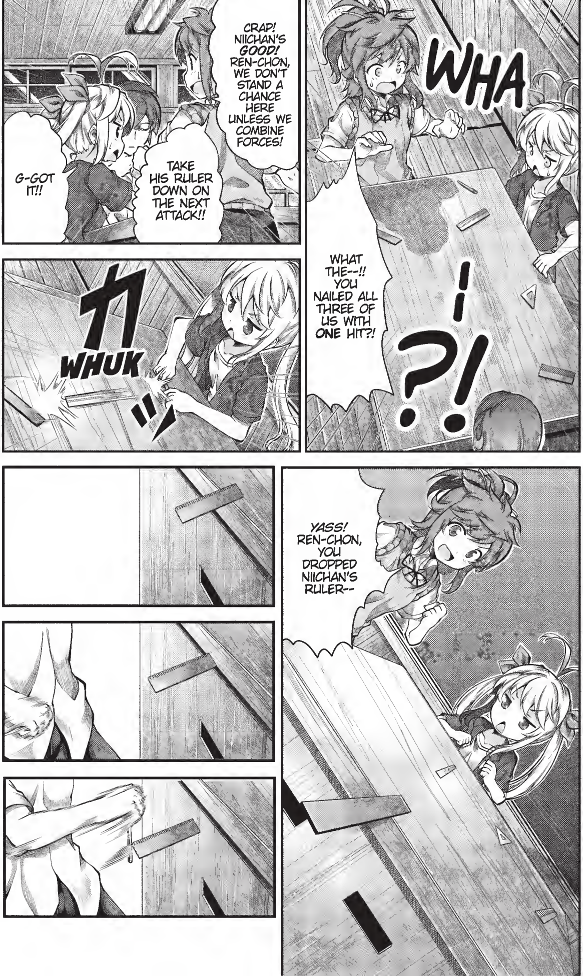

ピ
SCREE
タッ
WOW, THAT WAS CLOSE!
IT WENT RIGHT OVER IT. MAYBE I USED TOO MUCH WAX?
SEE? I TOLD YOU. YOU ADD WAX AND EVERYTHING GOES WHACK.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR TRYING TO CHEAT!
HOTARU! HOTARU! KNOCK NATSUMI'S RULER OFF THE TABLE!
OH! R-RIGHT.
I'LL PAY YOU BACK ON MY NEXT TURN!
HA HA...
RENGE, YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK, TOO.
'CAUSE I'M TOTALLY GETTING YOU BACK FOR THAT SWALLOW COUNTER.
HI-YA!
パチッ
Ka-chak
スコッ
SKRK
OKAY, MY TURN--HUH? WHERE'S MY RULER?
I-I'M SORRY. MY AIM WAS OFF...

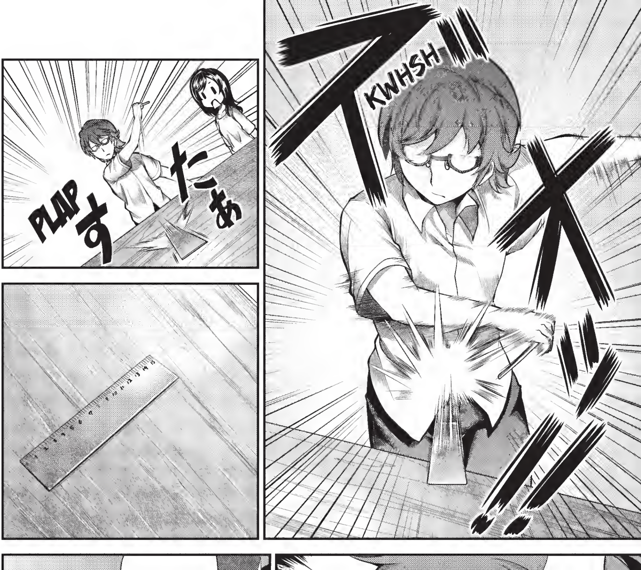
FACTOID

Ruler: A tool used to help draw and measure lines, curves, and angles. There's a tendency to lump rulers and straightedges together, but they have different names depending on their function. A ruler is used when drawing straight lines, curves, and angles, while a straightedge is only used for straight lines.

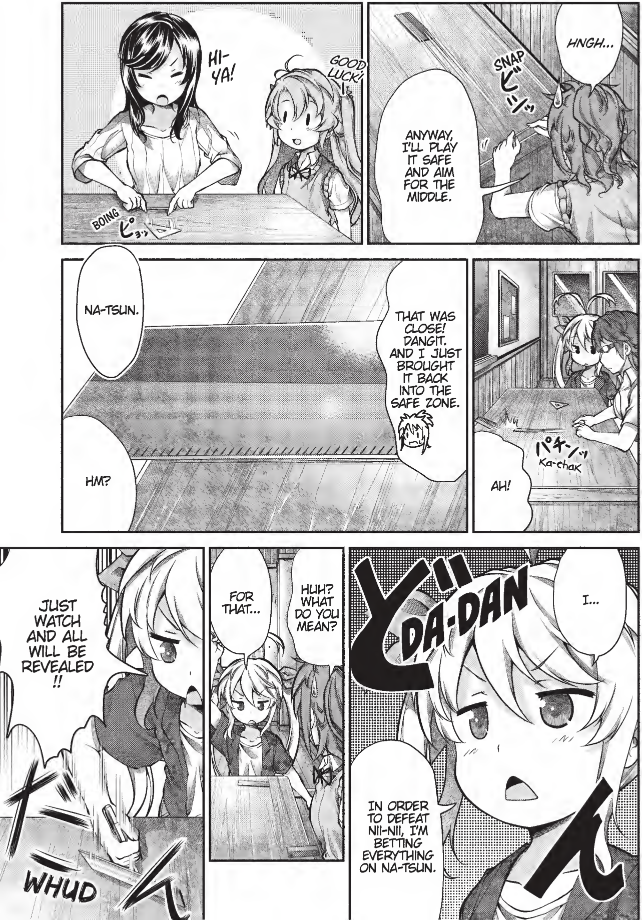

Koshigaya Suguru: Natsumi and Komari's older brother, ninth grader at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses a perfectly ordinary ruler, but its true ability cannot be measured.

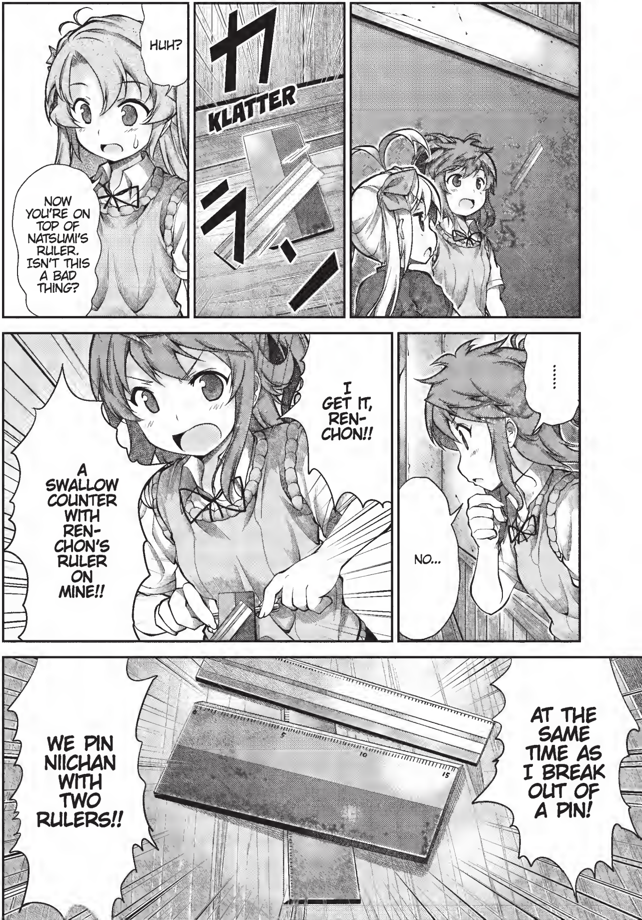
NIICHAN, YOU WANNA JOIN US?
WE'RE PLAYING RULER DROP!
NEE-CHAN'S OUT ALREADY, SO YOU CAN COME IN AND TAKE HER SPOT.
AAAALL RIGHTY, THEN!
SO HOW 'BOUT WE GET RIGHT TO IT?
TUNK
WHUK
BANG

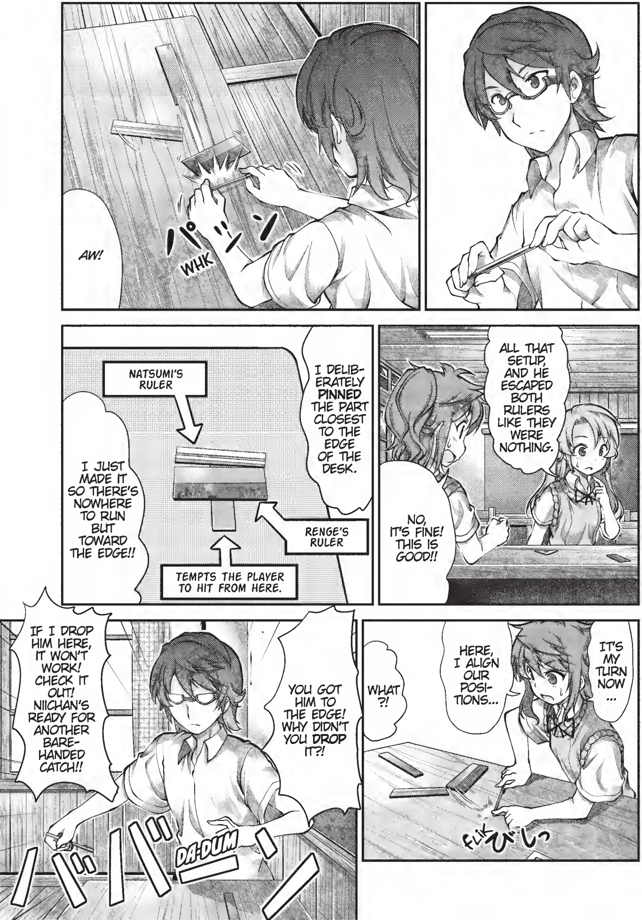

CRAP! NIICHAN'S *GOOD!* REN-CHON, WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE HERE UNLESS WE COMBINE FORCES!
TAKE HIS RULER DOWN ON THE NEXT ATTACK!!
G-GOT IT!!
カ
WHUK
WHA
WHAT THE--!! YOU NAILED ALL THREE OF US WITH **ONE** HIT?!
!?!
YASS! REN-CHON, YOU DROPPED NIICHAN'S RULER--

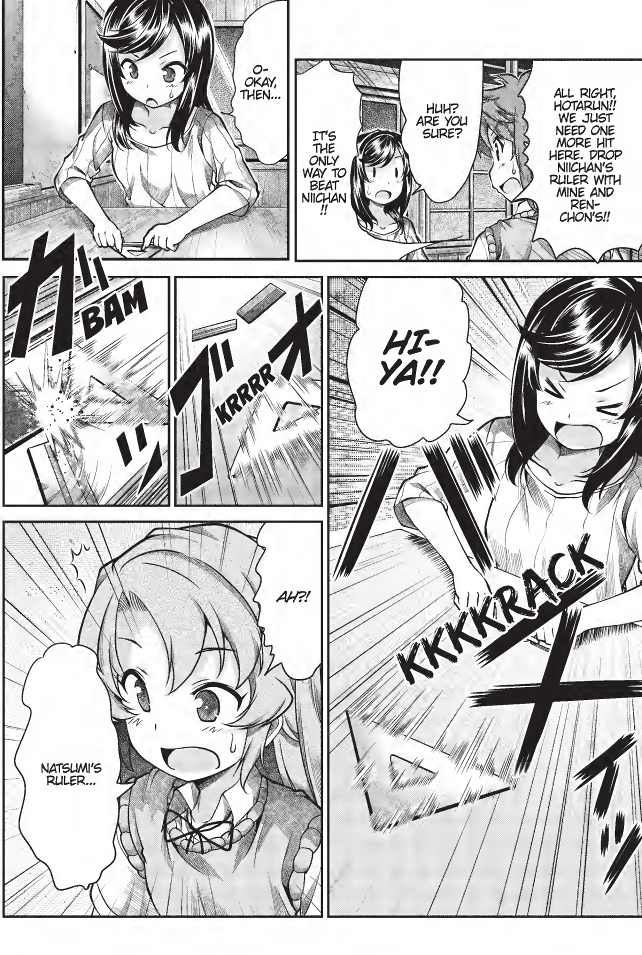

KWHSH
ズバッ!!
PLAP
すたぁ
B...
BARE-HANDED CAAAA-ATCH*!!
"BARE-HANDED CATCH"?!
THAT'S WHEN YOU HIT THE RULER WITH YOUR PEN BEFORE IT TOUCHES THE GROUND AND KNOCK IT BACK UP TO THE DESK.
IT'S SUPER HIGH LEVEL. BUT, LIKE, WHAT'S WITH THE KILLER REFLEXES, NIICHAN?

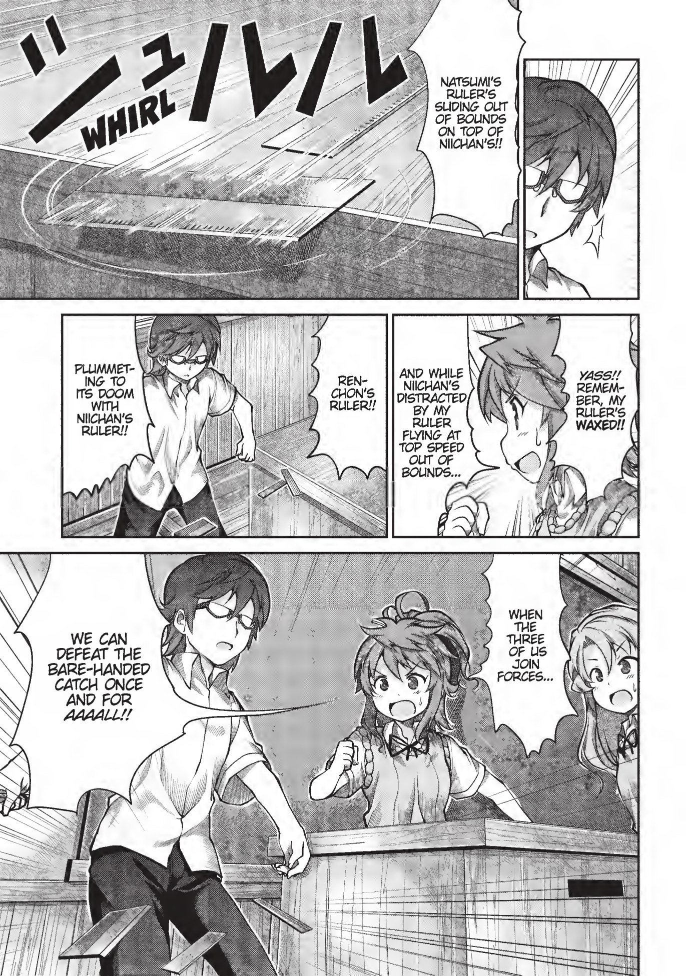
*Samurai often caught swords in their bare hands.

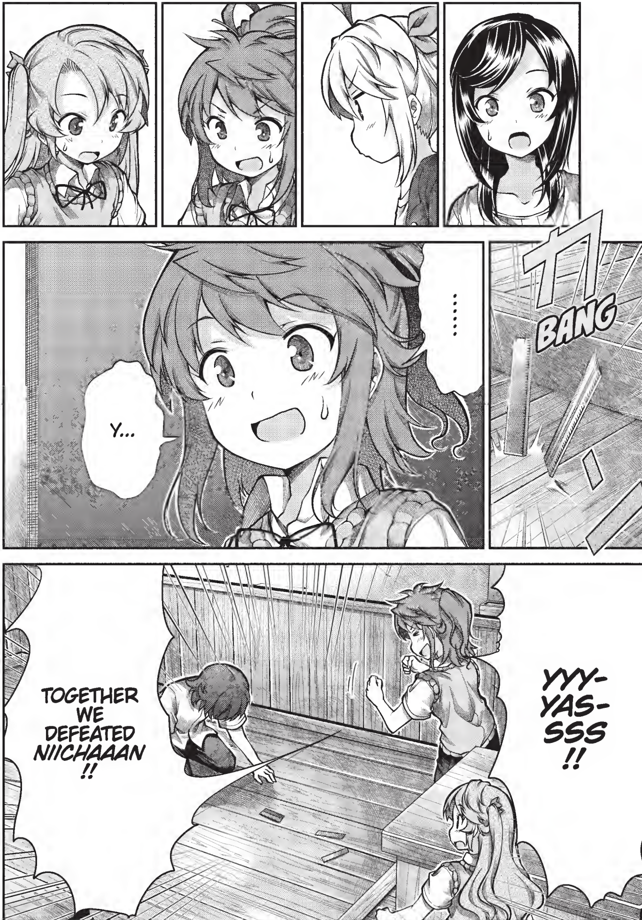

HNGH...
SNAP ビッッ
ANYWAY, I'LL PLAY IT SAFE AND AIM FOR THE MIDDLE.
HI-YA!
GOOD LUCK!
BOING ピョッ
AH!
パキーンッ Ka-chak
THAT WAS CLOSE! DANGIT. AND I JUST BROUGHT IT BACK INTO THE SAFE ZONE.
NA-TSUN.
HM?
I...
DA-DAN
IN ORDER TO DEFEAT NII-NII, I'M BETTING EVERYTHING ON NA-TSUN.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FOR THAT...
JUST WATCH AND ALL WILL BE REVEALED !!
WHUD

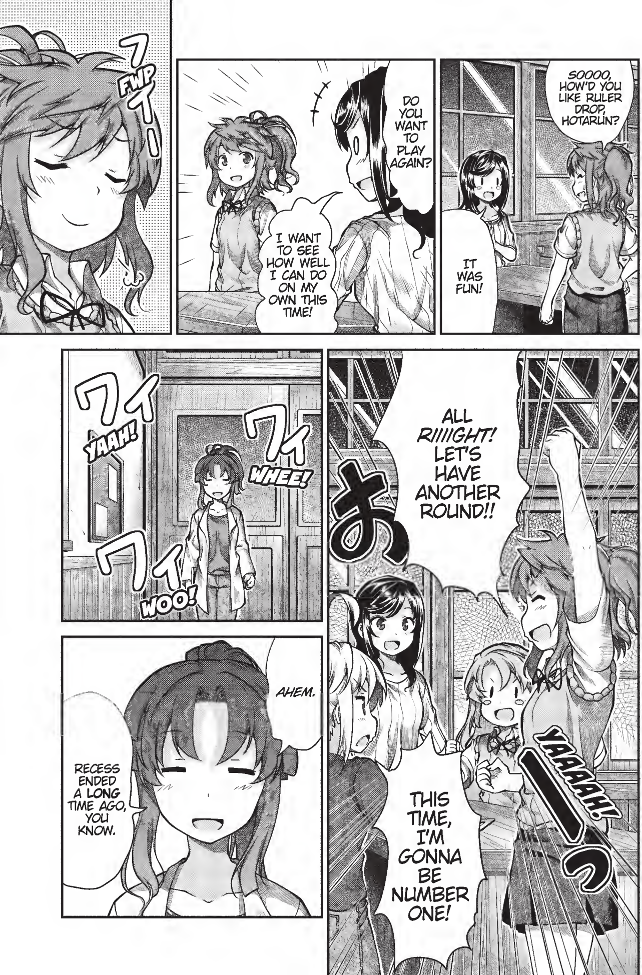

カラン
KLATTER
HUH?
NOW YOU'RE ON TOP OF NATSUMI'S RULER. ISN'T THIS A BAD THING?
......
NO...
I GET IT, REN-CHON!!
A SWALLOW COUNTER WITH REN-CHON'S RULER ON MINE!!
AT THE SAME TIME AS I BREAK OUT OF A PIN!
WE PIN NIICHAN WITH TWO RULERS!!

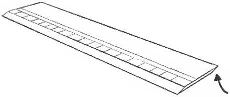

AW!
パーン
WHK
ALL THAT SETUP, AND HE ESCAPED BOTH RULERS LIKE THEY WERE NOTHING.
NO, IT'S FINE! THIS IS GOOD!!
I DELIBERATELY **PINNED** THE PART CLOSEST TO THE EDGE OF THE DESK.
NATSUMI'S RULER
I JUST MADE IT SO THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN BUT TOWARD THE EDGE!!
RENGE'S RULER
TEMPTS THE PLAYER TO HIT FROM HERE.
IT'S MY TURN NOW...
HERE, I ALIGN OUR POSITIONS...
WHAT?!
びしっ
FLIK
YOU GOT HIM TO THE EDGE! WHY DIDN'T YOU **DROP** IT?!
IF I DROP HIM HERE, IT WON'T WORK! CHECK IT OUT! NIICHAN'S READY FOR ANOTHER BAREHANDED CATCH!!
ババ
DA-DUM


ALL RIGHT, HOTARUN!! WE JUST NEED ONE MORE HIT HERE. DROP NIICHAN'S RULER WITH MINE AND REN-CHON'S!!
HUH? ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT NIICHAN!!
O-OKAY, THEN...
HI-YA!!
バキッ
KKKKRACK
ゴォ
KRRRR
ガッ
BAM
AH?!
NATSUMI'S RULER...


NATSUMI'S RULER'S SLIDING OUT OF BOUNDS ON TOP OF NIICHAN'S!!
ジュルル
WHIRL
YASS!! REMEMBER, MY RULER'S WAXED!!
AND WHILE NIICHAN'S DISTRACTED BY MY RULER FLYING AT TOP SPEED OUT OF BOUNDS...
REN-CHON'S RULER!!
PLUMMETING TO ITS DOOM WITH NIICHAN'S RULER!!
WHEN THE THREE OF US JOIN FORCES...
WE CAN DEFEAT THE BARE-HANDED CATCH ONCE AND FOR AAAALL!!

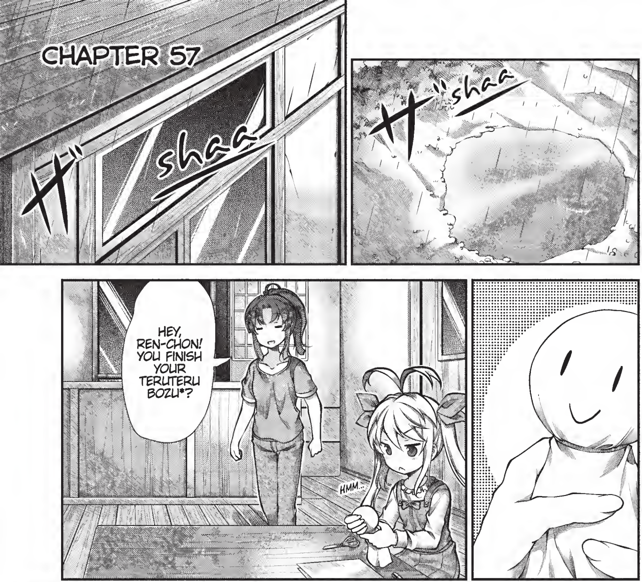

カ
BANG
……
Y...
YYY-YAS-SSS!!
TOGETHER WE DEFEATED NIICHAAAN!!


SOOOO, HOW'D YOU LIKE RULER DROP, HOTARUN?
IT WAS FUN!
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY AGAIN?
I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL I CAN DO ON MY OWN THIS TIME!
フイー
FWP
あ
ALL RIIIIGHT! LET'S HAVE ANOTHER ROUND!!
ーっ
YAAAAH!
THIS TIME, I'M GONNA BE NUMBER ONE!
ワイ
YAAH!
ワイ
WHEE!
ワイ
WOO!
AHEM.
RECESS ENDED A LONG TIME AGO, YOU KNOW.

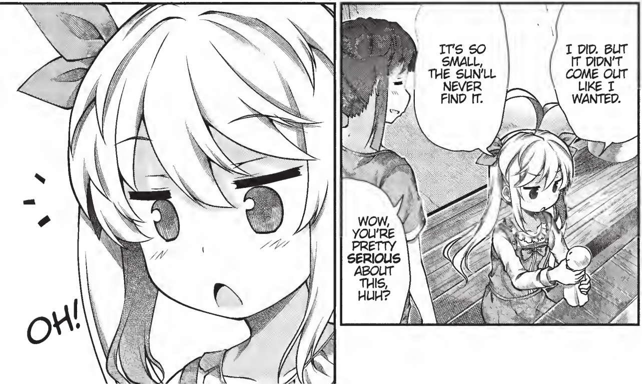


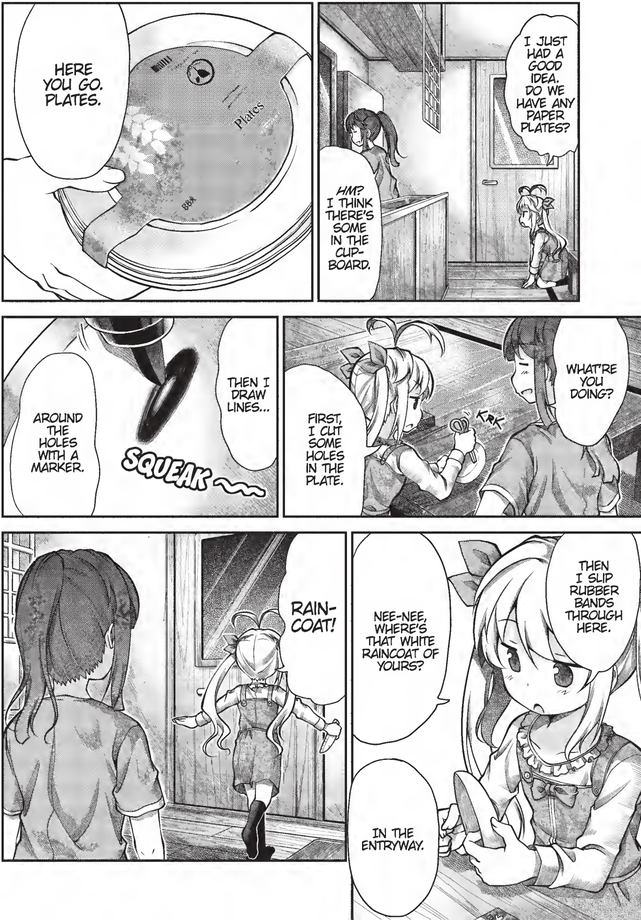
BOTH EDGES ARE
SHAVED DOWN SO
IT CAN BE BOUNCED
FROM EITHER SIDE.

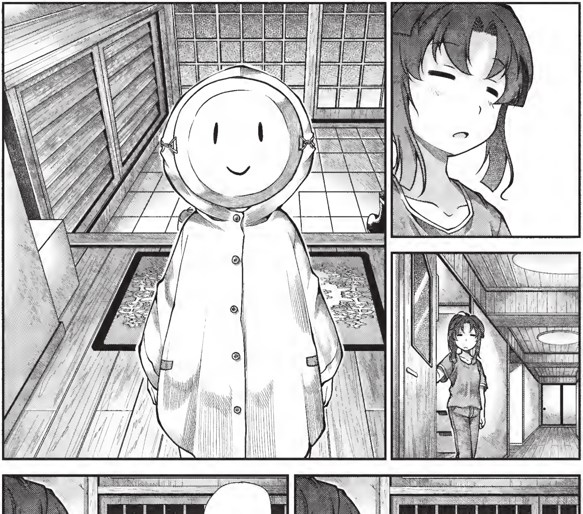
CHAPTER 57

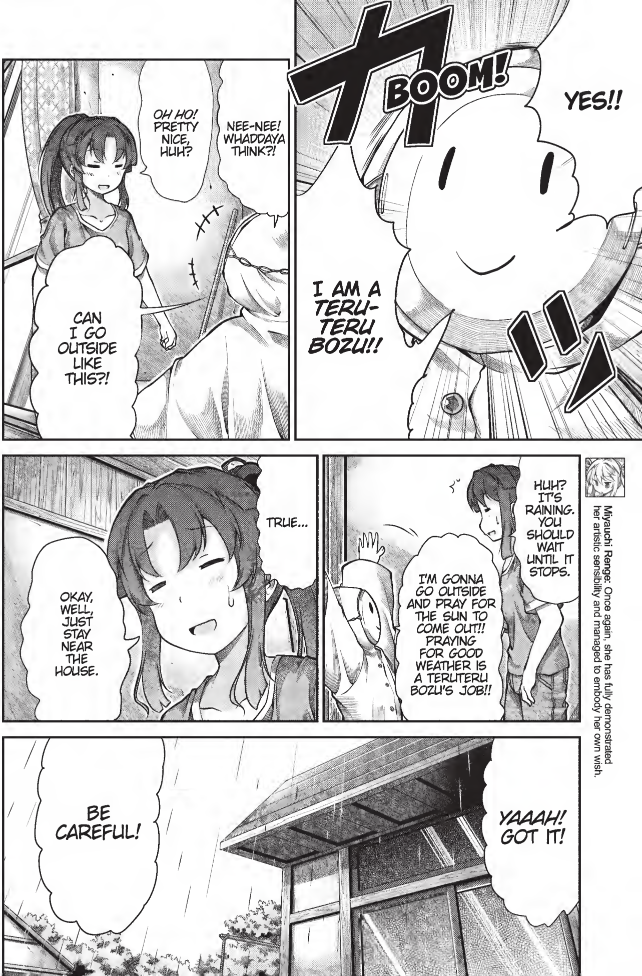

ザ shaa
ザ shaa
HEY, REN-CHON! YOU FINISH YOUR TERUTERU BOZU*?
HMM...

*TeruTeruBozu are talismans that are believed to bring sunny weather.


I DID. BUT IT DIDN'T COME OUT LIKE I WANTED.
IT'S SO SMALL, THE SUN'LL NEVER FIND IT.
WOW, YOU'RE PRETTY **SERIOUS** ABOUT THIS, HUH?
OH!


I JUST HAD A GOOD IDEA. DO WE HAVE ANY PAPER PLATES?
HM? I THINK THERE'S SOME IN THE CUPBOARD.
HERE YOU GO. PLATES.
Plates
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
FIRST, I CUT SOME HOLES IN THE PLATE.
KRK
THEN I DRAW LINES...
AROUND THE HOLES WITH A MARKER.
SQUEAK
THEN I SLIP RUBBER BANDS THROUGH HERE.
NEE-NEE, WHERE'S THAT WHITE RAINCOAT OF YOURS?
IN THE ENTRYWAY.
RAIN-COAT!

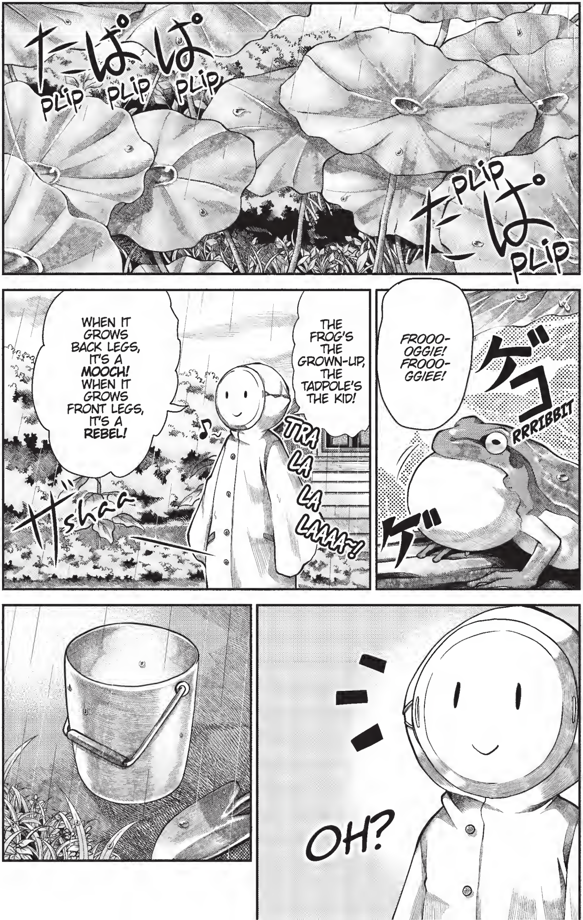

OTENTO-SAMA...


YES!!
BOOM!
I AM A TERU-TERU BOZU!!
NEE-NEE! WHADDAYA THINK?!
OH HO! PRETTY NICE, HUH?
CAN I GO OUTSIDE LIKE THIS?!
HUH? IT'S RAINING. YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL IT STOPS.
I'M GONNA GO OUTSIDE AND PRAY FOR THE SUN TO COME OUT!! PRAYING FOR GOOD WEATHER IS A TERUTERU BOZU'S JOB!!
TRUE...
OKAY, WELL, JUST STAY NEAR THE HOUSE.
YAAAH! GOT IT!
BE CAREFUL!

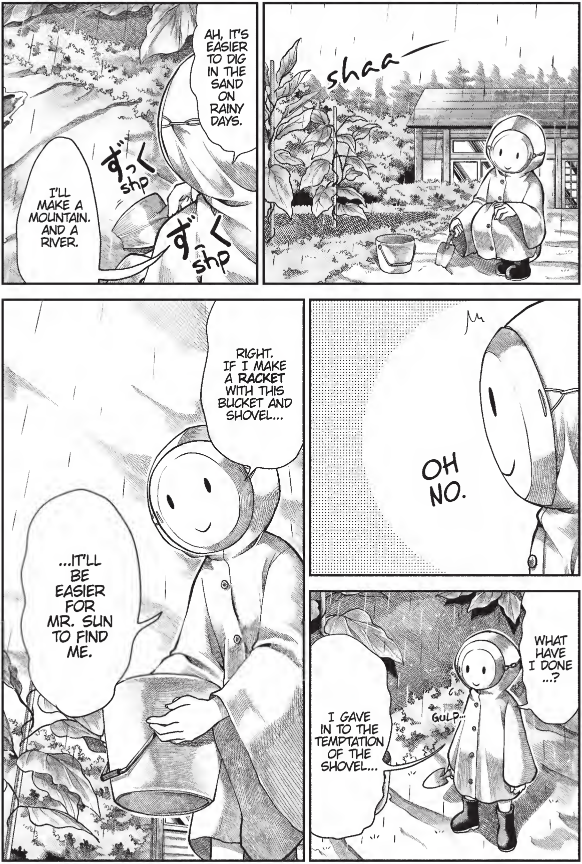
Miyauchi Renge: Once again, she has fully demonstrated her artistic sensibility and managed to embody her own wish.

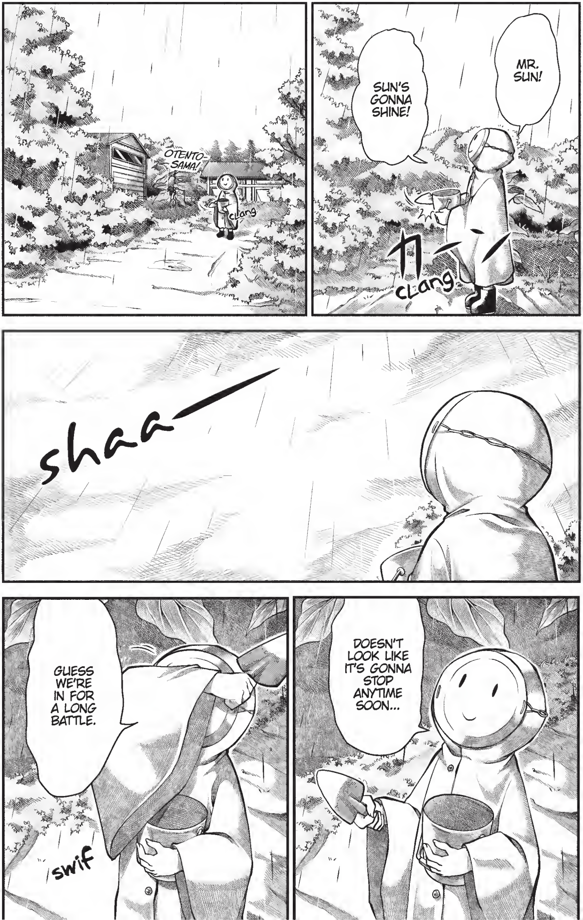
Miyauchi Kazuho: Renge's older sister. Teacher at Asahigaoka Branch School. Not sure if she's ever made a TeruTeruBozu... Oh, um...that... zzzz...

TeruTeruBozu: An avatar of prayer born from one little girl. Prays for clear skies with a unique song. The head is a little vulnerable to water.


たぱぱ
PLIP PLIP PLIP
たぱ
PLIP PLIP
FROOOOGGIE! FROOOGGIEE!
ゲコ
RRRIBBIT
ゲ
THE FROG'S THE GROWN-UP, THE TADPOLE'S THE KID!
WHEN IT GROWS BACK LEGS, IT'S A MOOCH! WHEN IT GROWS FRONT LEGS, IT'S A REBEL!
♪~
TRA LA LA LAAAA~!
ザ shaa
ジ
OH?

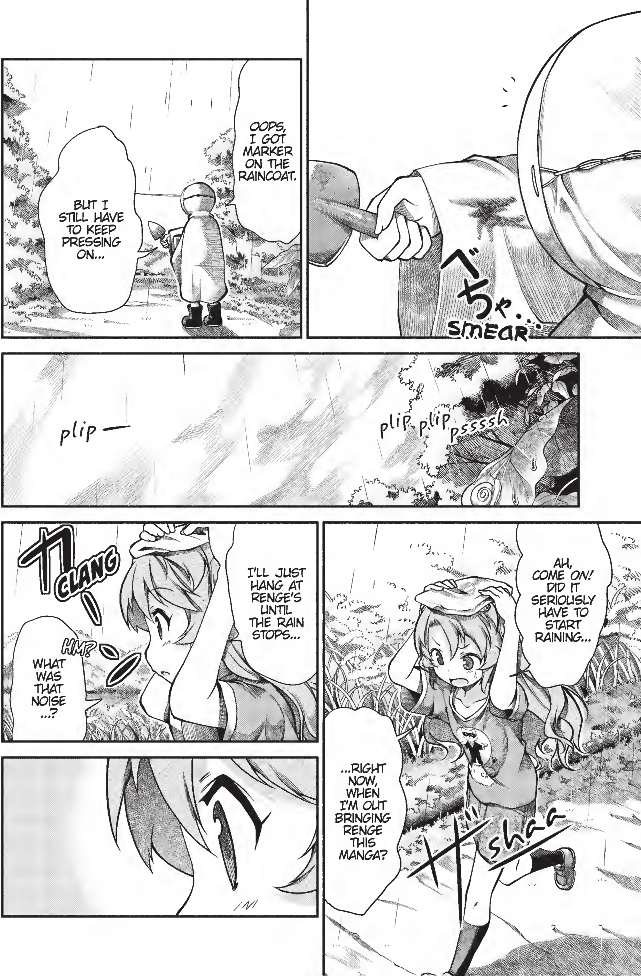
FACTOID TeruTeru Bozu: A doll made from white fabric or paper which, when hung outside the house, is said to bring fine weather the next day. The Chinese Souseijo girl is said to be the origin of this custom, but it is not practiced in modern China. The practice began in Japan in the Edo period, but back then it was closer to a prayer sheet.


shaa—
AH, IT'S EASIER TO DIG IN THE SAND ON RAINY DAYS.
ずっく shp
ずっく shp
I'LL MAKE A MOUNTAIN. AND A RIVER.
RIGHT. IF I MAKE A RACKET WITH THIS BUCKET AND SHOVEL...
...IT'LL BE EASIER FOR MR. SUN TO FIND ME.
OH NO.
WHAT HAVE I DONE ...?
GULP...
I GAVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION OF THE SHOVEL...

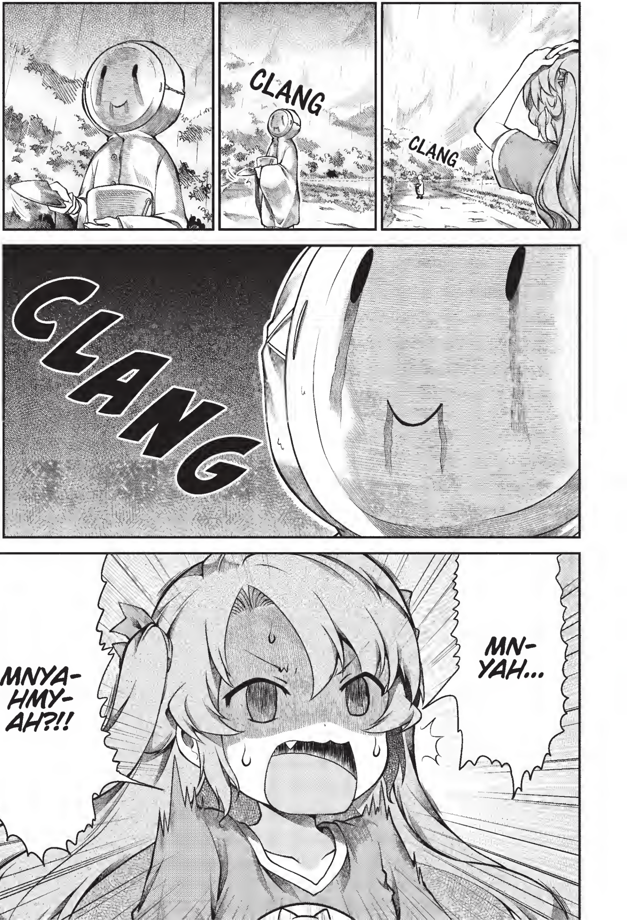

MR. SUN!
SUN'S GONNA SHINE!
カ
CLang!
OTENTO-SAMA!
CLang
shaa
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GONNA STOP ANYTIME SOON...
GUESS WE'RE IN FOR A LONG BATTLE.
swif

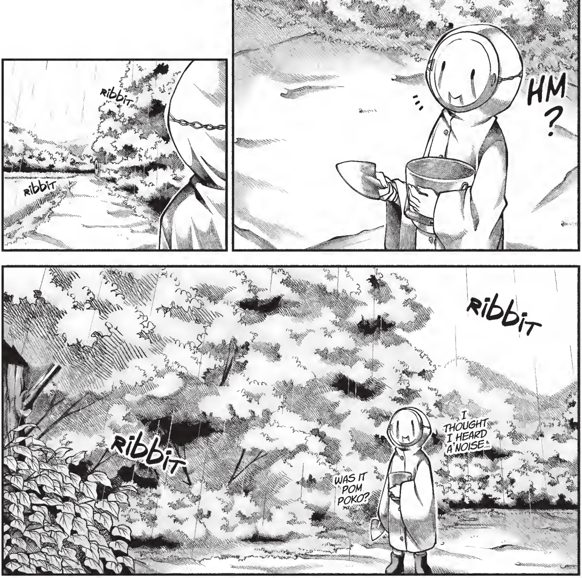
FACTOID

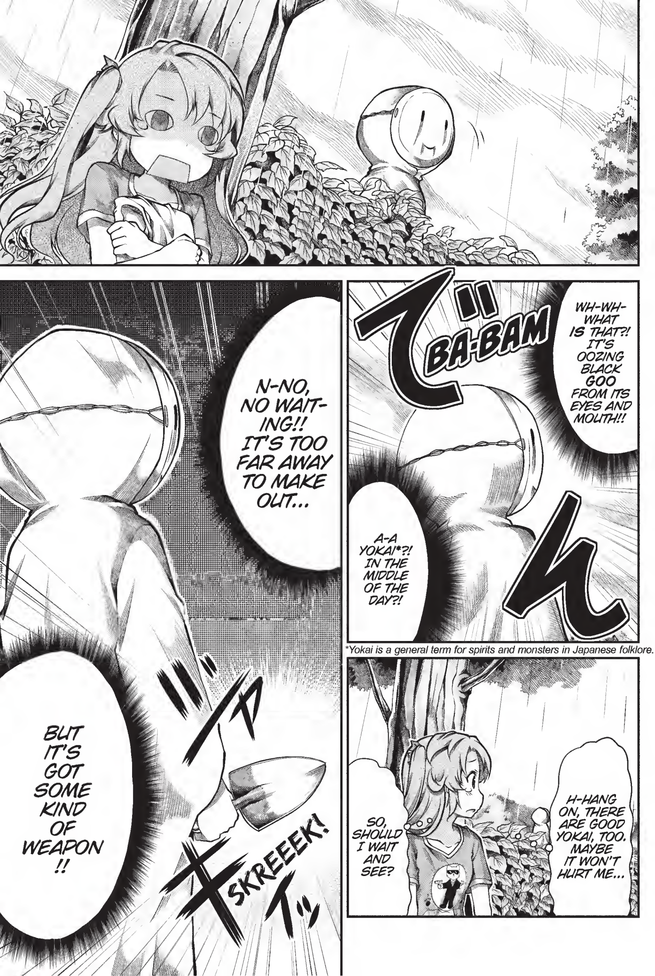
Otento-sama: Another name for the sun. Just like the moon and the stars, the sun is a natural object of reverence, regardless of religion, and has been worshipped as a god since ancient times. This phrasing has fallen out of style, but being chastised with "Otento-sama is watching" is still a key part of moral education.


べちゃ…
SMEAR
OOPS, I GOT MARKER ON THE RAINCOAT.
BUT I STILL HAVE TO KEEP PRESSING ON...
plip pssssh plip plip
AH, COME ON! DID IT SERIOUSLY HAVE TO START RAINING...
...RIGHT NOW, WHEN I'M OUT BRINGING RENGE THIS MANGA?
shaa
I'LL JUST HANG AT RENGE'S UNTIL THE RAIN STOPS...
CLANG
HM?
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE ...?

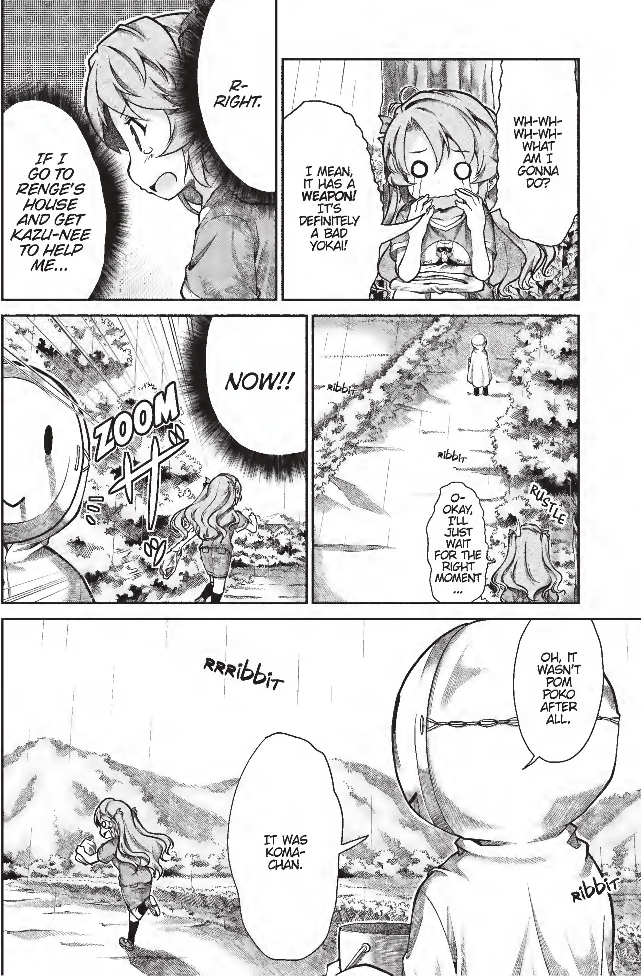
Koshigaya Komari: If this were a horror story, running away would be her doom. Luckily for her, this is *Non Non Biyori.*

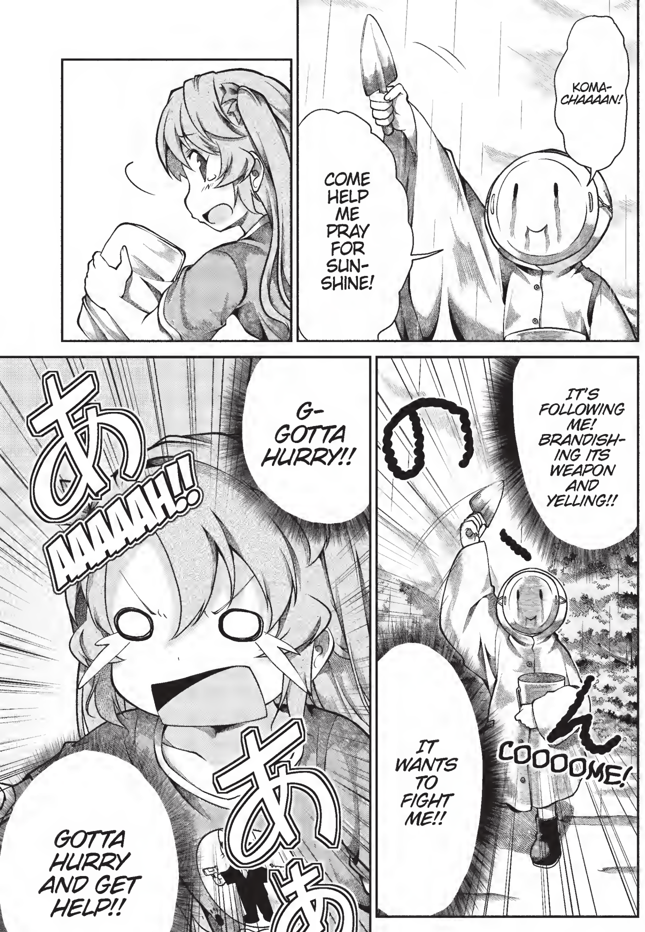

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
MN-YAH...
MNYA-HMY-AH?!!

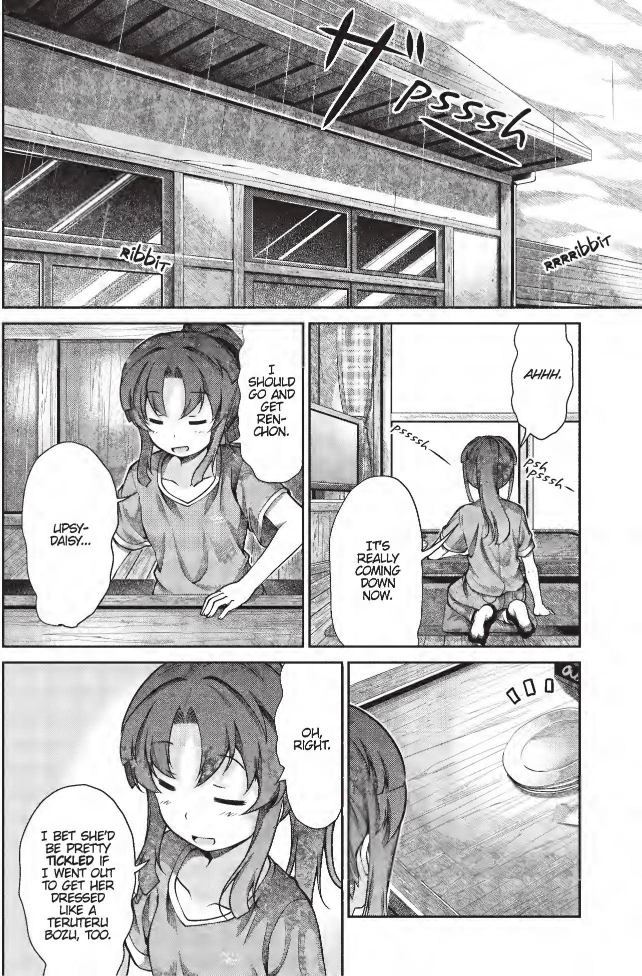

HM?
ribbit
ribbit
ribbit
I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE...
WAS IT POM POKO?
ribbit
FWP
HMMM?
FWP
SHAA—
RRRRRIBBIT

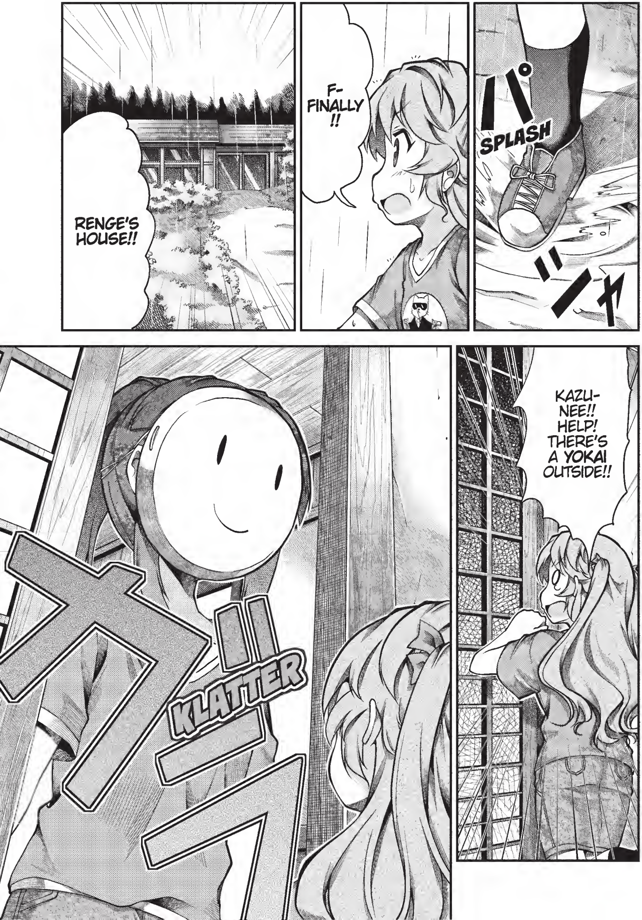

でん
BA-BAM
WH-WH-WHAT IS THAT?! IT'S OOZING BLACK GOO FROM ITS EYES AND MOUTH!!
A-A YOKAI*?! IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?!
H-HANG ON, THERE ARE GOOD YOKAI, TOO. MAYBE IT WON'T HURT ME...
SO, SHOULD I WAIT AND SEE?
N-NO, NO WAITING!! IT'S TOO FAR AWAY TO MAKE OUT...
BUT IT'S GOT SOME KIND OF WEAPON!!
SKREEEK!

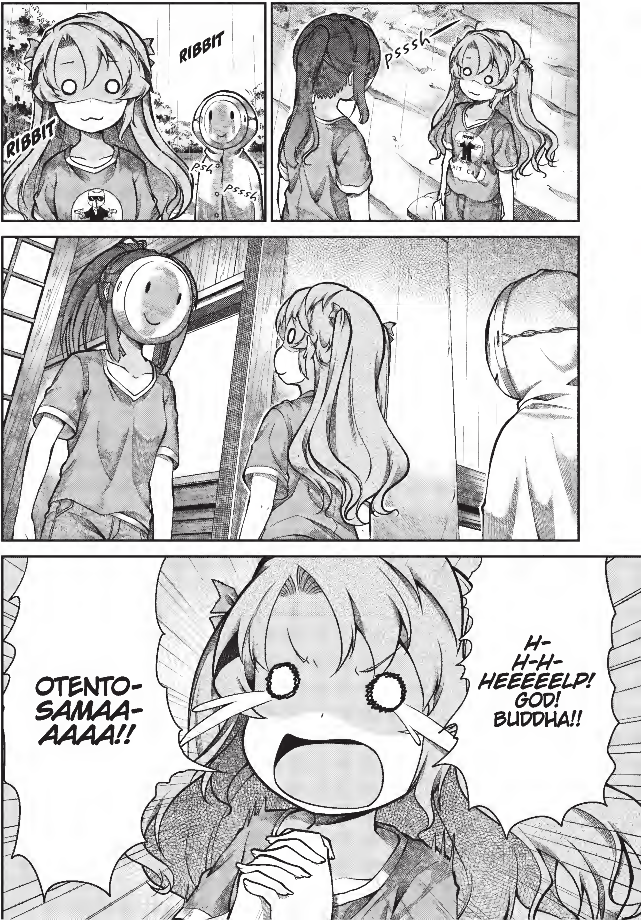
*Yokai is a general term for spirits and monsters in Japanese folklore.

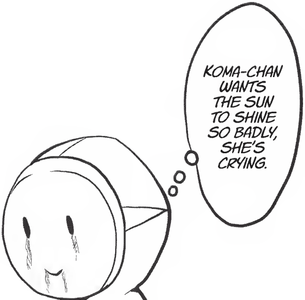

WH-WH-WH-WH-WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
I MEAN, IT HAS A **WEAPON!** IT'S DEFINITELY A BAD YOKAI!
R-RIGHT.
IF I GO TO RENGE'S HOUSE AND GET KAZU-NEE TO HELP ME...
ribbit
ribbit
RUSTLE
O-OKAY, I'LL JUST WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...
NOW!!
ZOOM
OH, IT WASN'T POM POKO AFTER ALL.
RRRibbit
IT WAS KOMA-CHAN.
ribbit


KOMA-CHAAAAN!
COME HELP ME PRAY FOR SUN-SHINE!
IT'S FOLLOWING ME! BRANDISH-ING ITS WEAPON AND YELLING!!
のーん COOOOME!
IT WANTS TO FIGHT ME!!
G-GOTTA HURRY!!
あ AAAAAH!!
ああ
GOTTA HURRY AND GET HELP!!


ザ
psssh
rrrribbit
ribbit
AHHH.
psssh—
psh pssssh—
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW.
I SHOULD GO AND GET RENCHON.
UPSY-DAISY...
OH, RIGHT.
I BET SHE'D BE PRETTY **TICKLED** IF I WENT OUT TO GET HER DRESSED LIKE A TERUTERU BOZU, TOO.

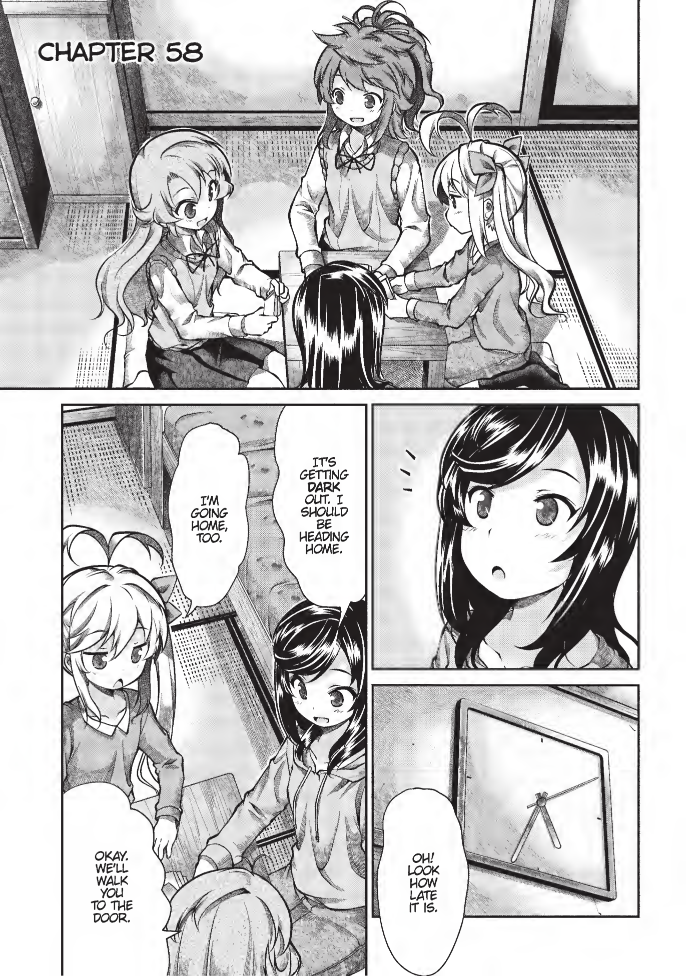

パ
SPLASH
シャ
F-FINALLY!!
RENGE'S HOUSE!!
KAZU-NEE!! HELP! THERE'S A YOKAI OUTSIDE!!
KLATTER

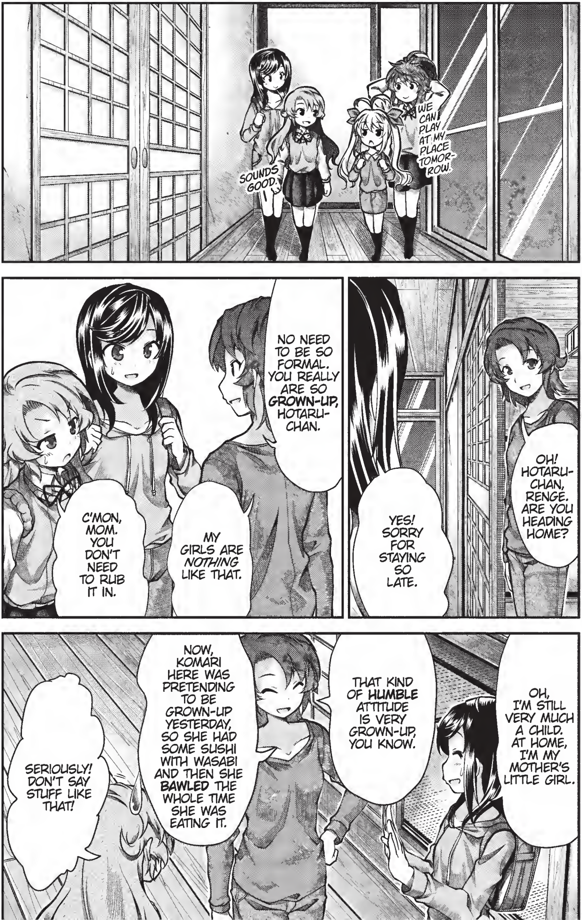

pssssh
HIT CA
RIBBIT
RIBBIT
psh
psssh
H-H-H-HEEEEELP! GOD! BUDDHA!!
OTENTO-SAMAAAAAA!!


KOMA-CHAN WANTS THE SUN TO SHINE SO BADLY, SHE'S CRYING.

のんびより

CHAPTER 58

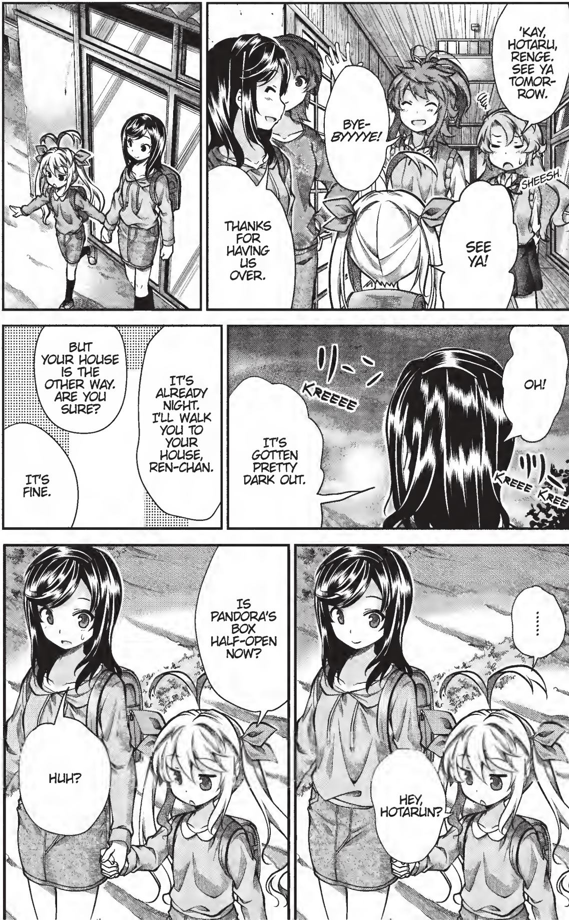

OH! LOOK HOW LATE IT IS.
IT'S GETTING DARK OUT. I SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.
I'M GOING HOME, TOO.
OKAY. WE'LL WALK YOU TO THE DOOR.

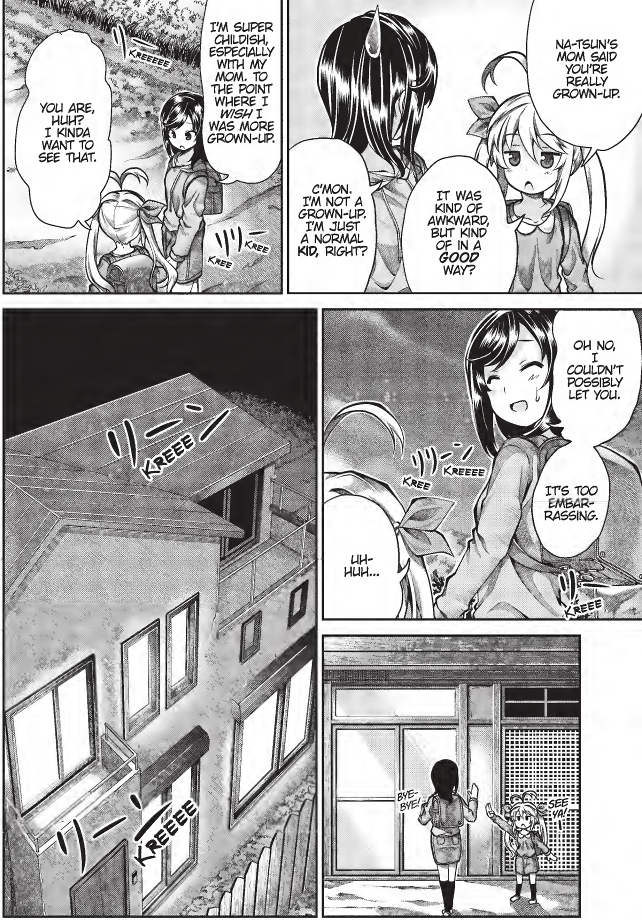

WE CAN PLAY AT MY PLACE TOMORROW.
SOUNDS GOOD.
OH! HOTARU-CHAN, RENGE. ARE YOU HEADING HOME?
YES! SORRY FOR STAYING SO LATE.
NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL. YOU REALLY ARE SO **GROWN-UP**, HOTARU-CHAN.
MY GIRLS ARE *NOTHING* LIKE THAT.
C'MON, MOM. YOU DON'T NEED TO RUB IT IN.
OH, I'M STILL VERY MUCH A CHILD. AT HOME, I'M MY MOTHER'S LITTLE GIRL.
THAT KIND OF **HUMBLE** ATTITUDE IS VERY GROWN-UP, YOU KNOW.
NOW, KOMARI HERE WAS PRETENDING TO BE GROWN-UP YESTERDAY, SO SHE HAD SOME SUSHI WITH WASABI AND THEN SHE **BAWLED** THE WHOLE TIME SHE WAS EATING IT.
SERIOUSLY! DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!

Koshigaya Komari: She's the big sister of the four and thinks of herself as a grown-up, but she still falls short in a bunch of ways.

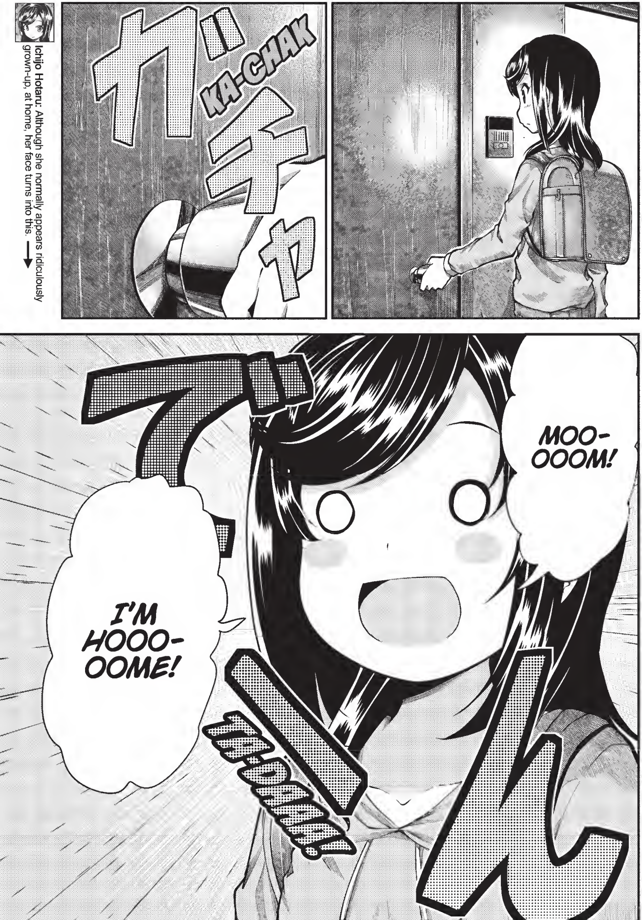
Koshigaya Natsumi: A firm believer in playing when it's time to play, she also believes in being a child while you're treated like a child.

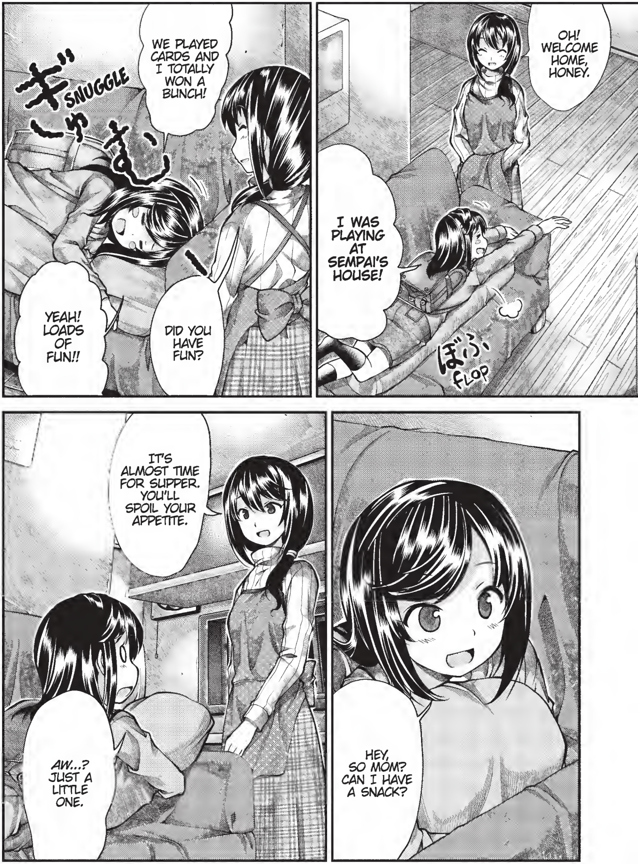
Miyauchi Renge: She isn't too sure what exactly a grown-up is, but she thinks it's different from Nee-nee...?

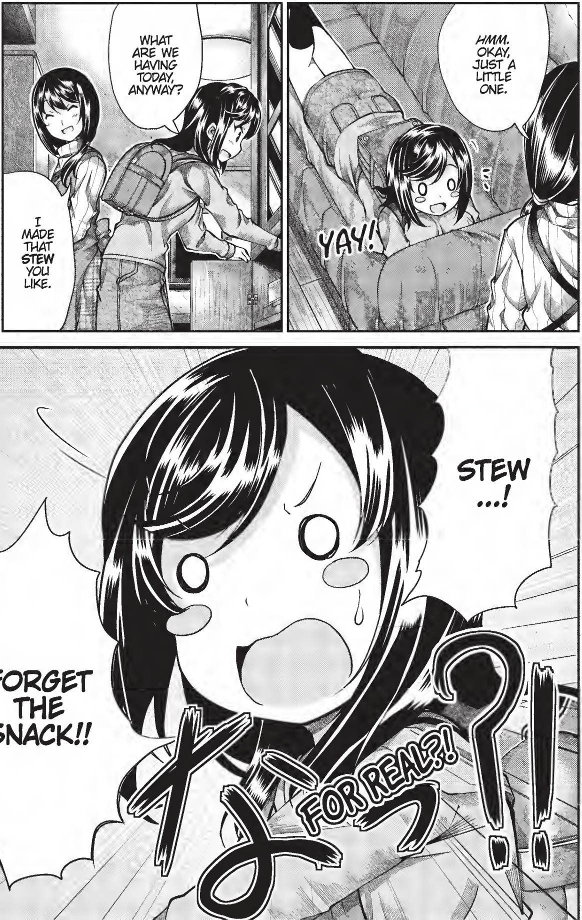

'KAY, HOTARU, RENGE. SEE YA TOMORROW.
Uu
SHEESH.
BYE-BYYYYE!
SEE YA!
THANKS FOR HAVING US OVER.
OH!
KREEEE
KREEE KREE
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DARK OUT.
IT'S ALREADY NIGHT. I'LL WALK YOU TO YOUR HOUSE, REN-CHAN.
BUT YOUR HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY. ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S FINE.
......
HEY, HOTARUN?
IS PANDORA'S BOX HALF-OPEN NOW?
HUH?

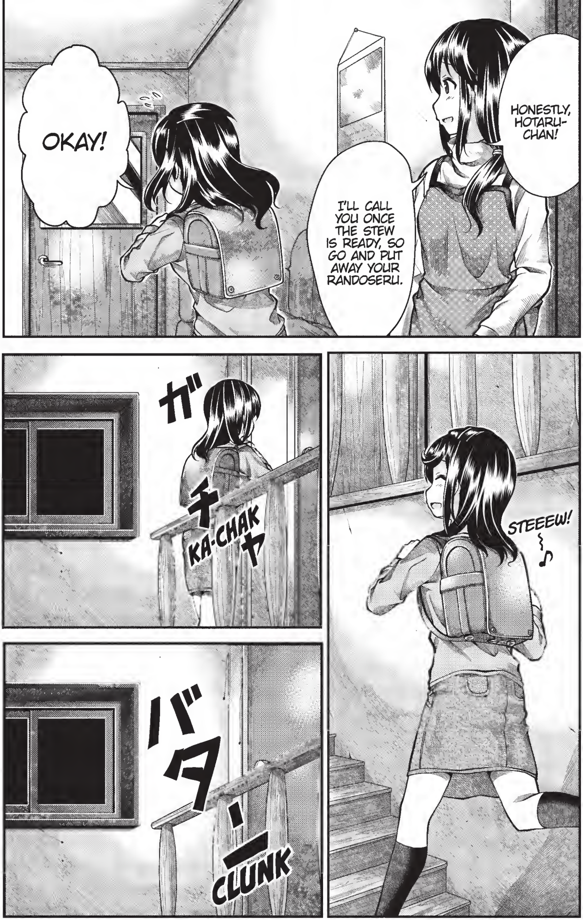

NA-TSUN'S MOM SAID YOU'RE REALLY GROWN-UP.
IT WAS KIND OF AWKWARD, BUT KIND OF IN A GOOD WAY?
C'MON. I'M NOT A GROWN-UP. I'M JUST A NORMAL KID, RIGHT?
I'M SUPER CHILDISH, ESPECIALLY WITH MY MOM. TO THE POINT WHERE I *WISH* I WAS MORE GROWN-UP.
KREEEEE
YOU ARE, HUH? I KINDA WANT TO SEE THAT.
KREE
KREE
OH NO, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY LET YOU.
KREEEE
KREE
IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING.
UH-HUH...
KREEE
BYE-BYE!
SEE YA!
KREEE
KREEEE

Ichijo Hotaru: Although she normally appears ridiculously grown-up, at home, her face turns into this. →


ガチャ
KA-CHAK
MOO-OOOM!
I'M HOOOO-OOME!
TA-DAAA!

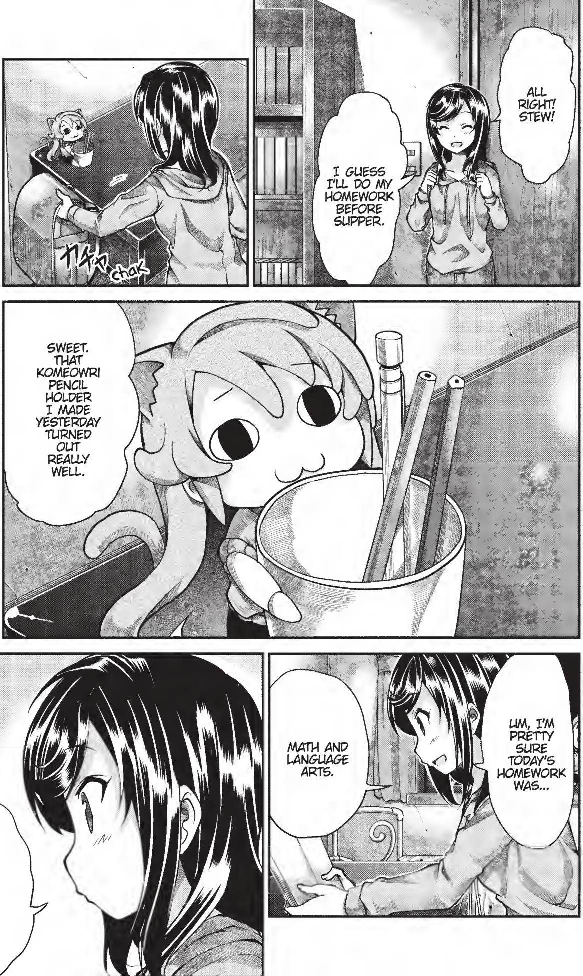

OH! WELCOME HOME, HONEY.
I WAS PLAYING AT SEMPAI'S HOUSE!
ぼふ
FLOP
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YEAH! LOADS OF FUN!!
ぎゅ〜
SNUGGLE
WE PLAYED CARDS AND I TOTALLY WON A BUNCH!
HEY, SO MOM? CAN I HAVE A SNACK?
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SUPPER. YOU'LL SPOIL YOUR APPETITE.
AW...? JUST A LITTLE ONE.

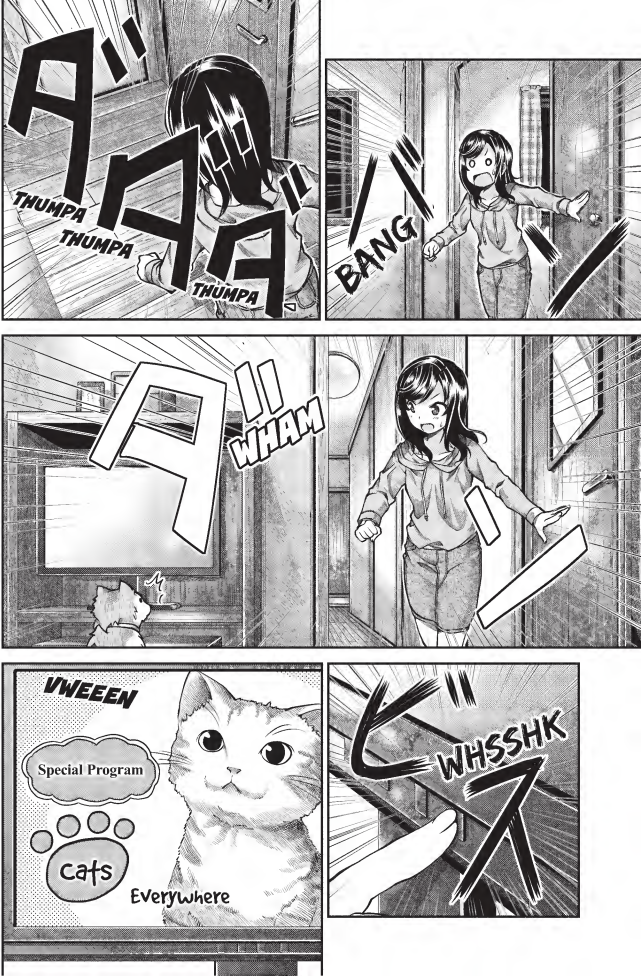

HMM. OKAY, JUST A LITTLE ONE.
YAY!
WHAT ARE WE HAVING TODAY, ANYWAY?
I MADE THAT STEW YOU LIKE.
STEW ...!
FORGET THE SNACK!!
FOR REAL?!

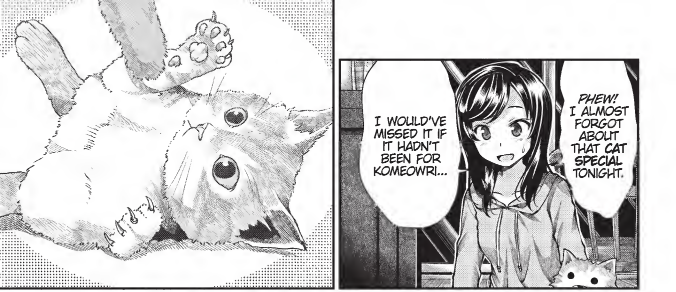

HONESTLY, HOTARU-CHAN!
I'LL CALL YOU ONCE THE STEW IS READY, SO GO AND PUT AWAY YOUR RANDOSERU.
OKAY!
STEEEW! ~♪
ガチャ
KA-CHAK
バタ―
CLUNK

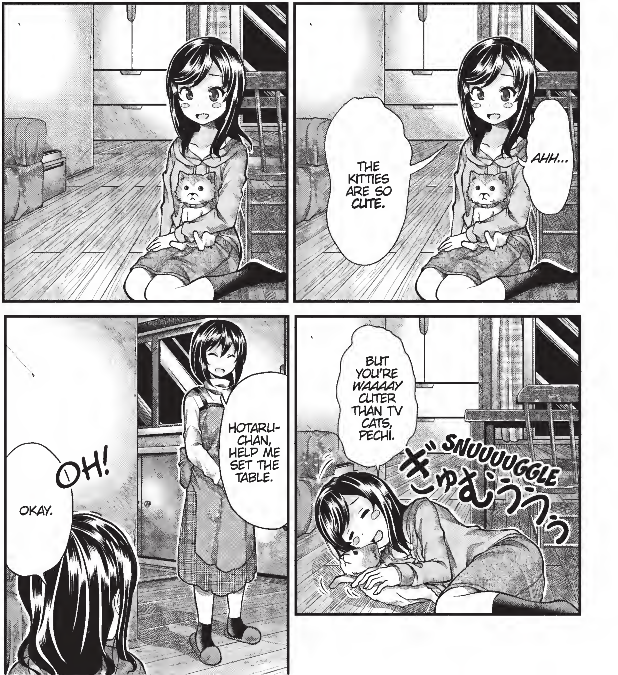
FACTOID

Randoseru: A bag many elementary school students in Japan use to carry their textbooks, notebooks, and other supplies. Nowadays, it's evolved into many colors and shapes, but the bag has been around since the Edo period. It's said that the name was originally a mispronunciation of the Dutch word "ransel" meaning "backpack." Its use as a school bag came from the Gakushuin elementary school. A *Gundam* backpack is apparently also called a randoseru.


ALL RIGHT! STEW!
I GUESS I'LL DO MY HOMEWORK BEFORE SUPPER.
ガチャ chak
SWEET. THAT KOMEOWRI PENCIL HOLDER I MADE YESTERDAY TURNED OUT REALLY WELL.
UM, I'M PRETTY SURE TODAY'S HOMEWORK WAS...
MATH AND LANGUAGE ARTS.
....

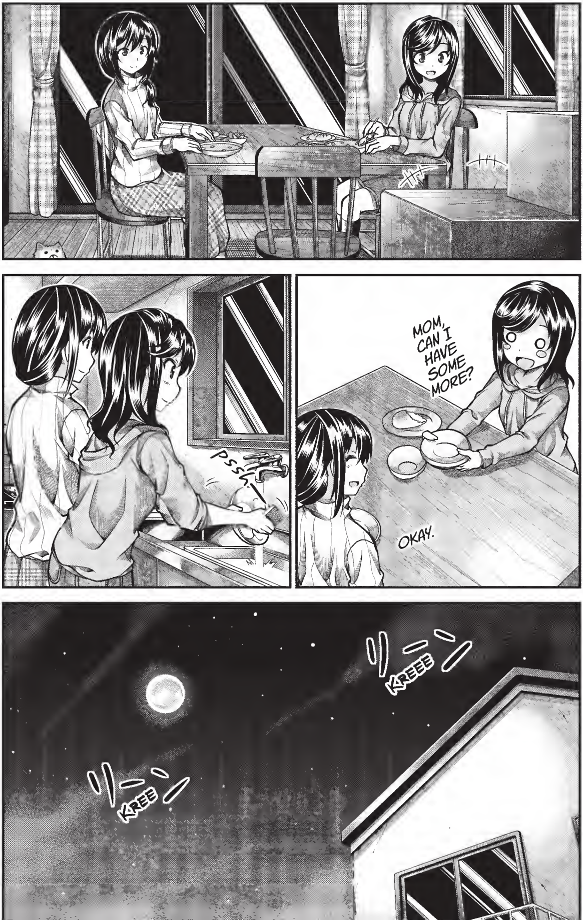

バン
BANG
ダッダッダッ
THUMPA
THUMPA
THUMPA
ダン
WHAM
ビス
WHSSHK
VWEEEN
Special Program
cats
Everywhere

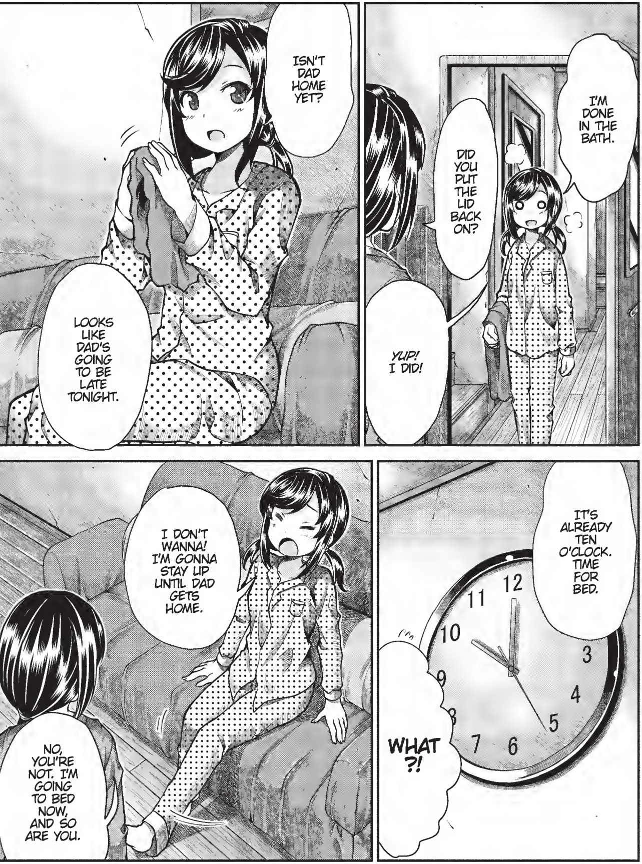

PHEW! I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT CAT SPECIAL TONIGHT.
I WOULD'VE MISSED IT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR KOMEOWRI...

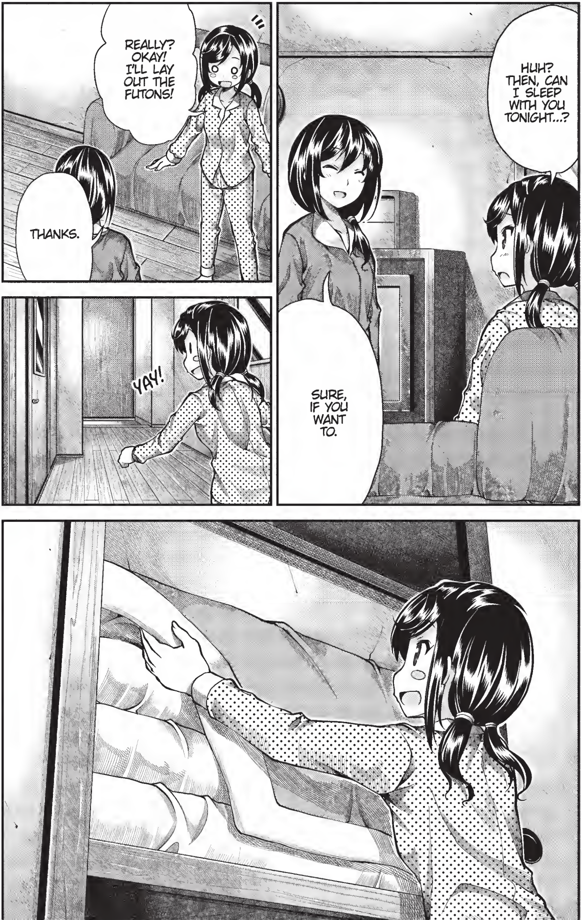

AHH...
THE KITTIES ARE SO CUTE.
BUT YOU'RE WAAAAY CUTER THAN TV CATS, PECHI.
SNUUUUGGLE
ぎゅむうぅぅ
HOTARU-CHAN, HELP ME SET THE TABLE.
OH!
OKAY.

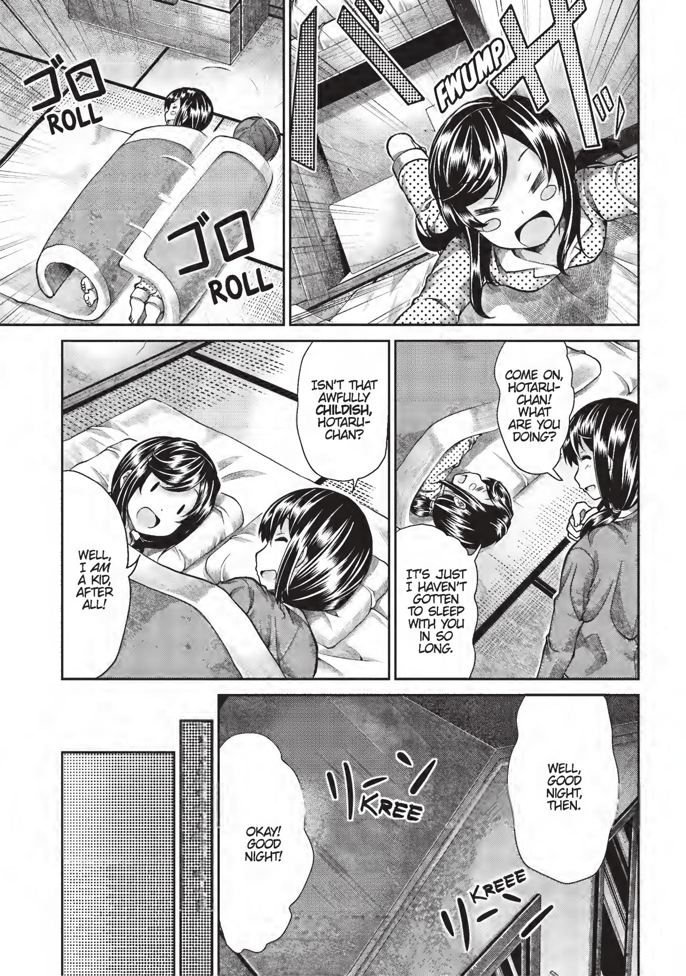
FACTOID

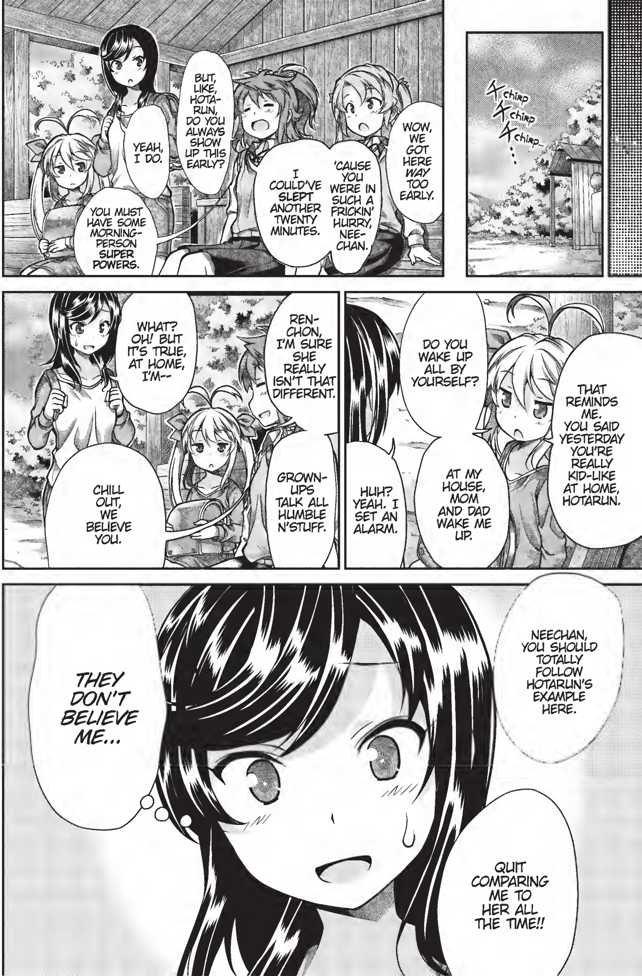
Cat: Needs no definition. The cat is believed to have originated when wildcats were domesticated for the purpose of catching rodents. The Libyan wildcat which lives in the deserts of the Middle East is said to be the original species. The oldest evidence of cat ownership is from Cypress approximately 9,500 years ago.


MOM, CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?
OKAY.
PSSH
リーン
KREEE
リーン
KREE


I'M DONE IN THE BATH.
DID YOU PUT THE LID BACK ON?
YUP! I DID!
ISN'T DAD HOME YET?
LOOKS LIKE DAD'S GOING TO BE LATE TONIGHT.
IT'S ALREADY TEN O'CLOCK. TIME FOR BED.
12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
WHAT?!
I DON'T WANNA! I'M GONNA STAY UP UNTIL DAD GETS HOME.
NO, YOU'RE NOT. I'M GOING TO BED NOW, AND SO ARE YOU.


HUH? THEN, CAN I SLEEP WITH YOU TONIGHT...?
SURE, IF YOU WANT TO.
REALLY? OKAY! I'LL LAY OUT THE FUTONS!
THANKS.
YAY!


FWUMP
ゴロ
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
COME ON, HOTARU-CHAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S JUST I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO SLEEP WITH YOU IN SO LONG.
ISN'T THAT AWFULLY **CHILDISH**, HOTARU-CHAN?
WELL, I *AM* A KID, AFTER ALL!
WELL, GOOD NIGHT, THEN.
KREEE
KREE
OKAY! GOOD NIGHT!


chirp
chirp
chirp...
WOW, WE GOT HERE WAY TOO EARLY.
'CAUSE YOU WERE IN SUCH A FRICKIN' HURRY, NEE-CHAN.
I COULD'VE SLEPT ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES.
BUT, LIKE, HOTA-RUN, DO YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP THIS EARLY?
YEAH, I DO.
YOU MUST HAVE SOME MORNING-PERSON SUPER POWERS.
THAT REMINDS ME. YOU SAID YESTERDAY YOU'RE REALLY KID-LIKE AT HOME, HOTARUN.
DO YOU WAKE UP ALL BY YOURSELF?
AT MY HOUSE, MOM AND DAD WAKE ME UP.
HUH? YEAH. I SET AN ALARM.
REN-CHON, I'M SURE SHE REALLY ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT.
GROWN-UPS TALK ALL HUMBLE N'STUFF.
WHAT? OH! BUT IT'S TRUE, AT HOME, I'M--
CHILL OUT, WE BELIEVE YOU.
NEECHAN, YOU SHOULD TOTALLY FOLLOW HOTARUN'S EXAMPLE HERE.
QUIT COMPARING ME TO HER ALL THE TIME!!
THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME...

KOMEOWRI CHECKING OUT HER PENCIL HOLDER.

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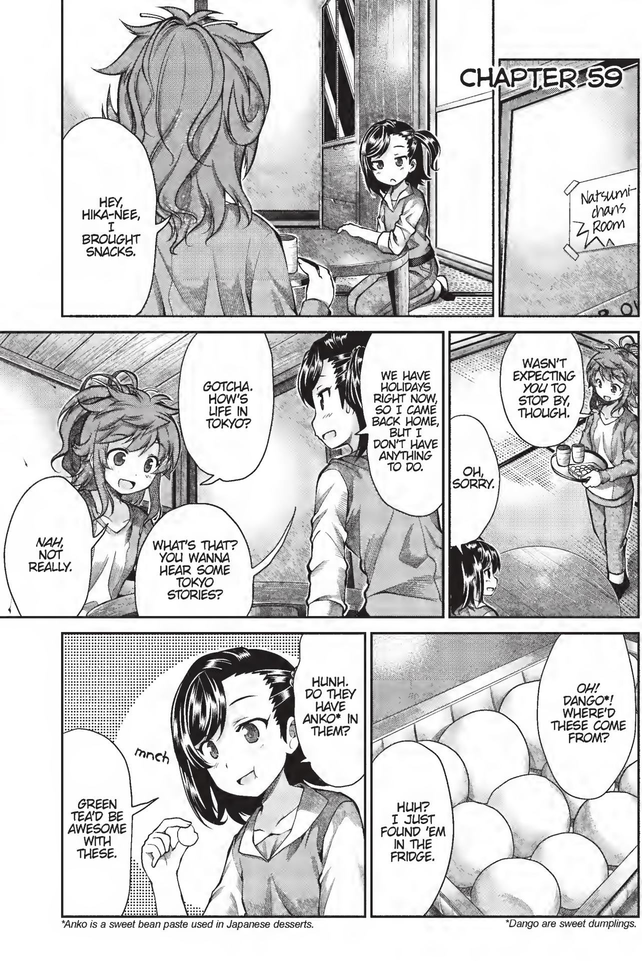
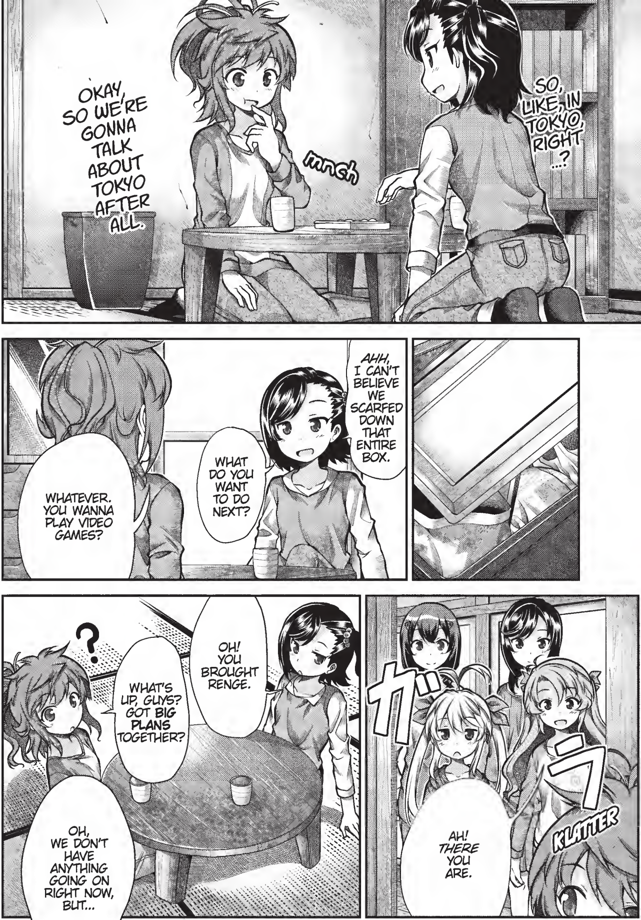
CHAPTER 59

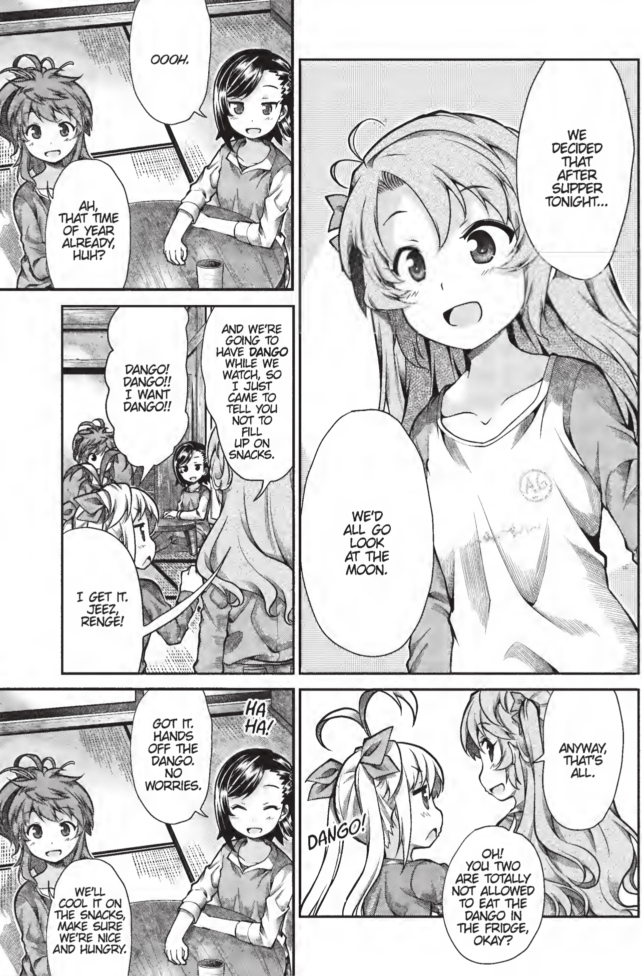

Natsumi-chans Room
HEY, HIKA-NEE, I BROUGHT SNACKS.
WASN'T EXPECTING *YOU* TO STOP BY, THOUGH.
OH, SORRY.
WE HAVE HOLIDAYS RIGHT NOW, SO I CAME BACK HOME, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.
GOTCHA. HOW'S LIFE IN TOKYO?
WHAT'S THAT? YOU WANNA HEAR SOME TOKYO STORIES?
NAH, NOT REALLY.
OH! DANGO*! WHERE'D THESE COME FROM?
HUH? I JUST FOUND 'EM IN THE FRIDGE.
HUNH. DO THEY HAVE ANKO* IN THEM?
mnch
GREEN TEA'D BE AWESOME WITH THESE.

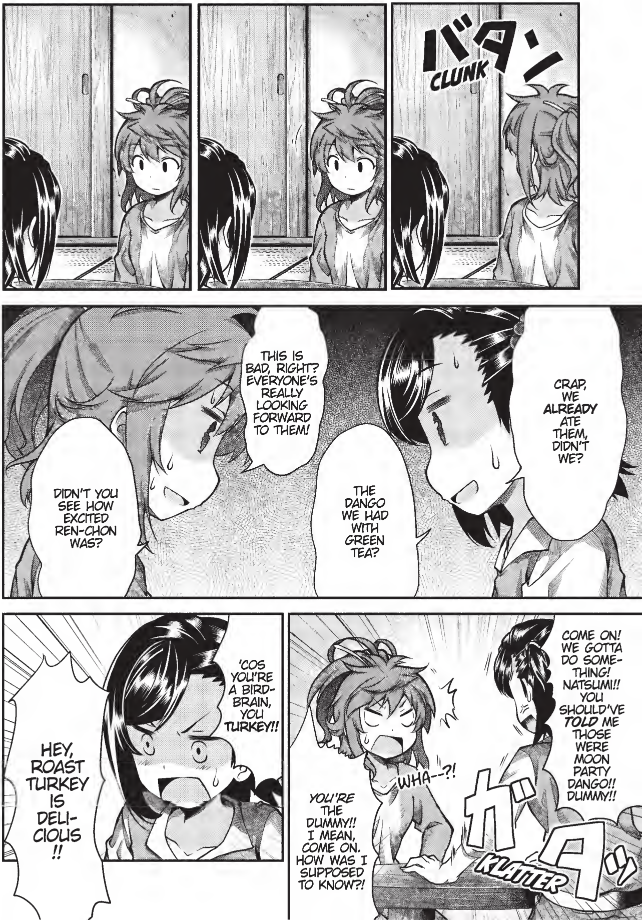
---

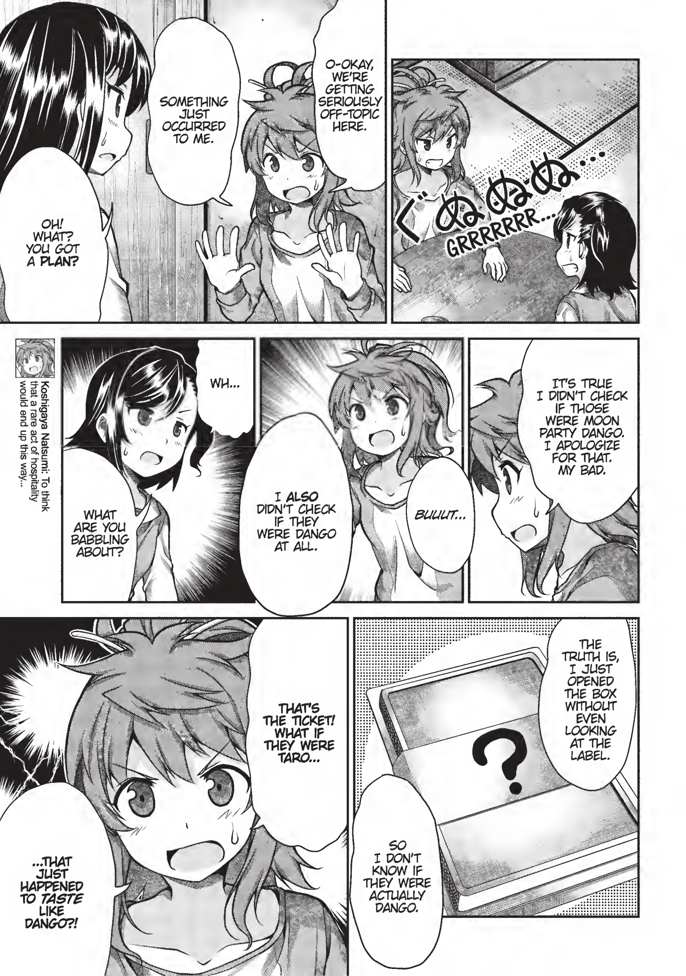
*Anko is a sweet bean paste used in Japanese desserts.

*Dango are sweet dumplings.

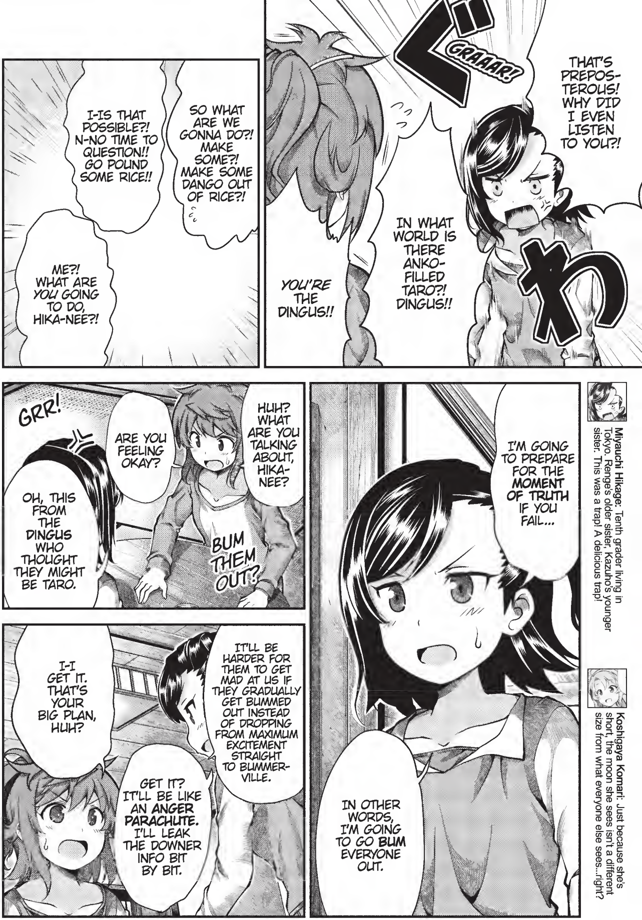

SO, LIKE, IN TOKYO, RIGHT ...?
mnch
OKAY, SO WE'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT TOKYO AFTER ALL.
AHH, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE SCARFED DOWN THAT ENTIRE BOX.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?
WHATEVER. YOU WANNA PLAY VIDEO GAMES?
ガ
ラ
KLATTER
AH! THERE YOU ARE.
OH! YOU BROUGHT RENGE.
?
WHAT'S UP, GUYS? GOT BIG PLANS TOGETHER?
OH, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING GOING ON RIGHT NOW, BUT...


WE DECIDED THAT AFTER SUPPER TONIGHT...
WE'D ALL GO LOOK AT THE MOON.
OOOH.
AH, THAT TIME OF YEAR ALREADY, HUH?
AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE DANGO WHILE WE WATCH, SO I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU NOT TO FILL UP ON SNACKS.
DANGO! DANGO!! I WANT DANGO!!
I GET IT. JEEZ, RENGE!
ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL.
DANGO!
OH! YOU TWO ARE TOTALLY NOT ALLOWED TO EAT THE DANGO IN THE FRIDGE, OKAY?
HA HA!
GOT IT. HANDS OFF THE DANGO. NO WORRIES.
WE'LL COOL IT ON THE SNACKS, MAKE SURE WE'RE NICE AND HUNGRY.


バタン
CLUNK
CRAP, WE ALREADY ATE THEM, DIDN'T WE?
THE DANGO WE HAD WITH GREEN TEA?
THIS IS BAD, RIGHT? EVERYONE'S REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM!
DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW EXCITED REN-CHON WAS?
COME ON! WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING! NATSUMI!! YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME THOSE WERE MOON PARTY DANGO!! DUMMY!!
ガタッ
KLATTER
WHA--?!
YOU'RE THE DUMMY!! I MEAN, COME ON. HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?!
'COS YOU'RE A BIRD-BRAIN, YOU TURKEY!!
HEY, ROAST TURKEY IS DELICIOUS!!


ぐぬぬぬ…
GRRRRRR...
O-OKAY, WE'RE GETTING SERIOUSLY OFF-TOPIC HERE.
SOMETHING JUST OCCURRED TO ME.
OH! WHAT? YOU GOT A **PLAN?**
IT'S TRUE I DIDN'T CHECK IF THOSE WERE MOON PARTY DANGO. I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. MY BAD.
BUUUT...
I **ALSO** DIDN'T CHECK IF THEY WERE DANGO AT ALL.
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
THE TRUTH IS, I JUST OPENED THE BOX WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE LABEL.
?
SO I DON'T KNOW IF THEY WERE ACTUALLY DANGO.
THAT'S THE TICKET! WHAT IF THEY WERE TARO...
...THAT JUST HAPPENED TO *TASTE* LIKE DANGO?!

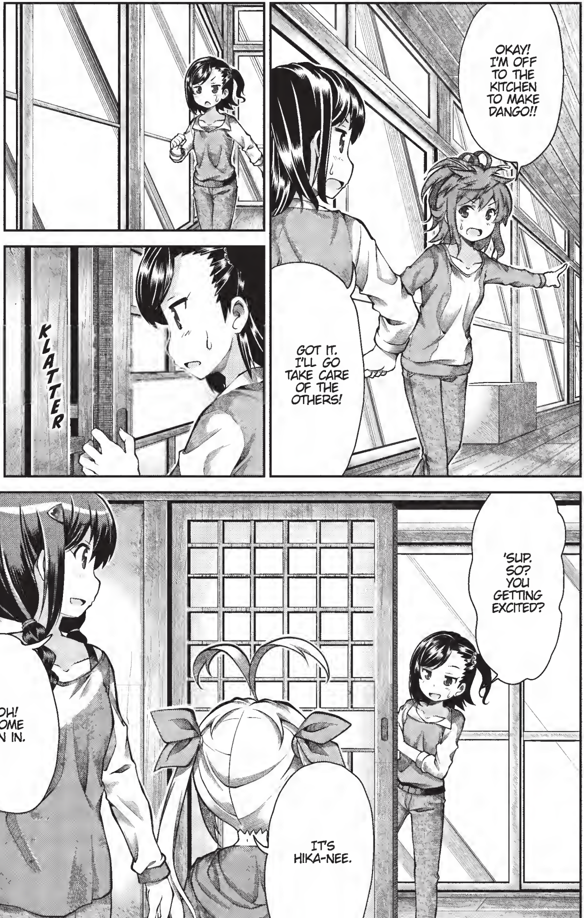
Koshigaya Natsumi: To think that a rare act of hospitality would end up this way...


わ
THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS! WHY DID I EVEN LISTEN TO YOU?!
ど GRAAAR!
IN WHAT WORLD IS THERE ANKO-FILLED TARO?! DINGUS!!
YOU'RE THE DINGUS!!
SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?! MAKE SOME?! MAKE SOME DANGO OUT OF RICE?!
I-IS THAT POSSIBLE?! N-NO TIME TO QUESTION!! GO POUND SOME RICE!!
ME?! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HIKA-NEE?!
I'M GOING TO PREPARE FOR THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IF YOU FAIL...
IN OTHER WORDS, I'M GOING TO GO BUM EVERYONE OUT.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HIKA-NEE?
BUM THEM OUT?
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
GRR!
OH, THIS FROM THE DINGUS WHO THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE TARO.
IT'LL BE HARDER FOR THEM TO GET MAD AT US IF THEY GRADUALLY GET BUMMED OUT INSTEAD OF DROPPING FROM MAXIMUM EXCITEMENT STRAIGHT TO BUMMERVILLE.
GET IT? IT'LL BE LIKE AN ANGER PARACHUTE. I'LL LEAK THE DOWNER INFO BIT BY BIT.
I-I GET IT. THAT'S YOUR BIG PLAN, HUH?

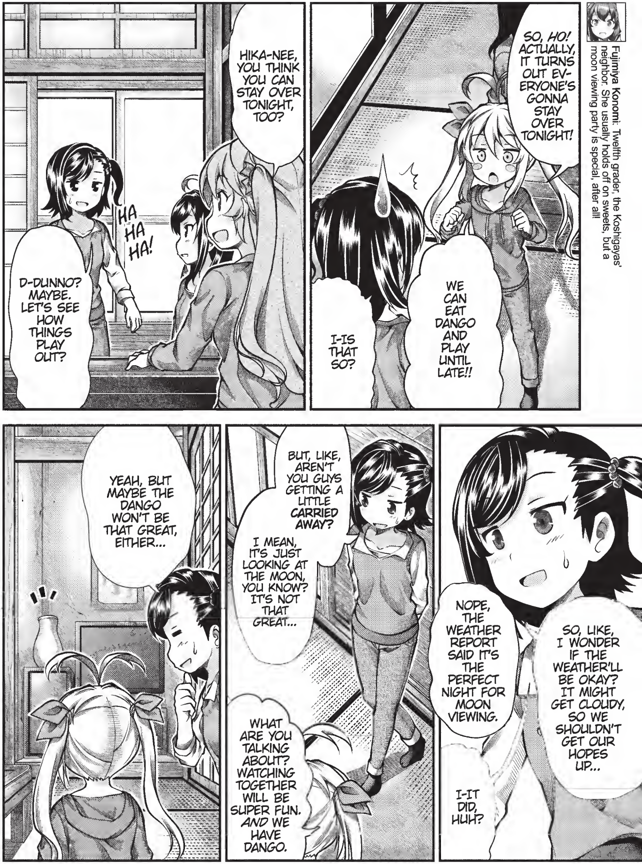
Miyauchi Hikage: Tenth grader living in Tokyo. Renge's older sister, Kazuho's younger sister. This was a trap! A delicious trap!

Koshigaya Komari: Just because she's short, the moon she sees isn't a different size from what everyone else sees...right?

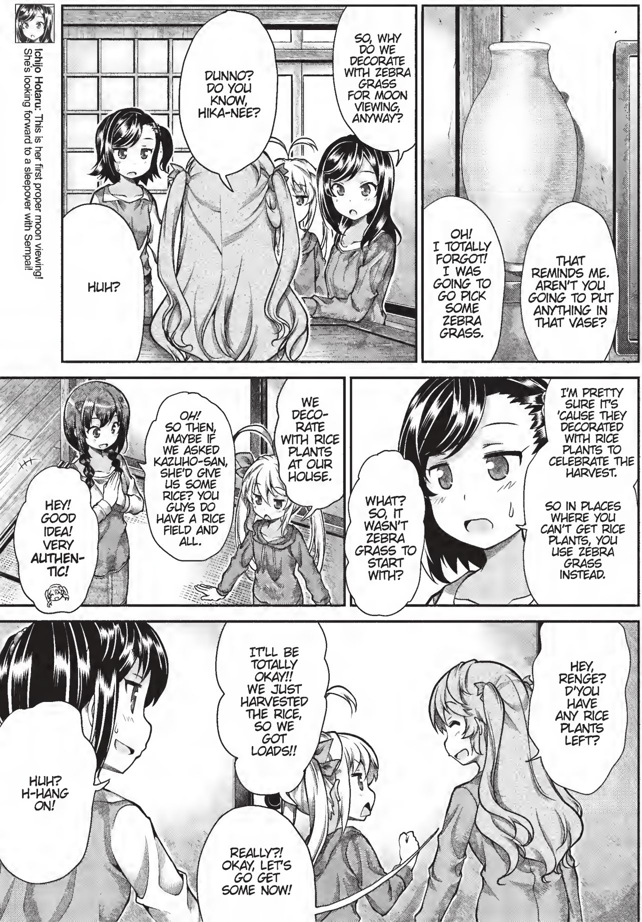
Miyauchi Renge: Eating dango while moon-gazing... The people in olden times really knew how to do things.

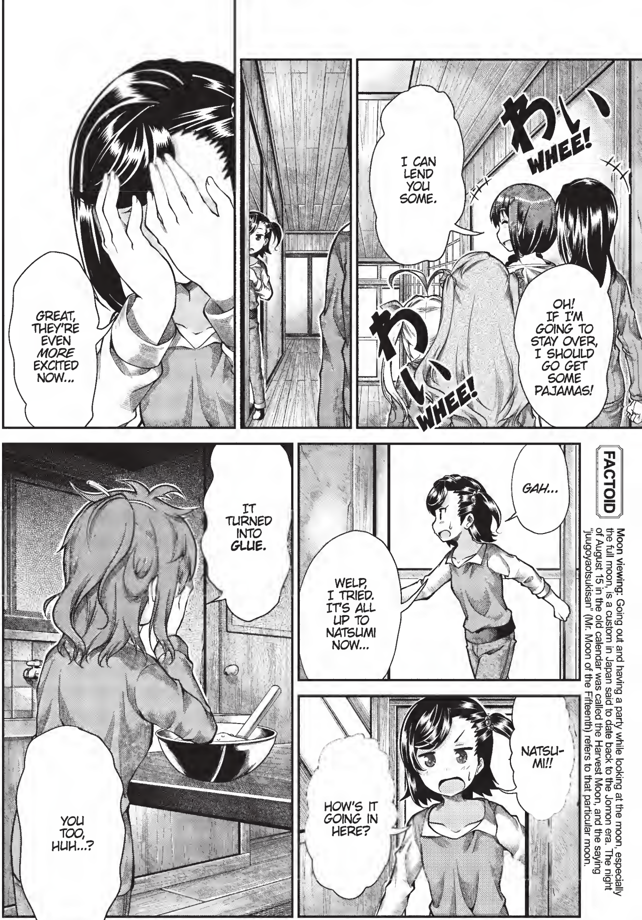

OKAY! I'M OFF TO THE KITCHEN TO MAKE DANGO!!
GOT IT. I'LL GO TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS!
KLATTER
'SUP. SO? YOU GETTING EXCITED?
OH! COME ON IN.
IT'S HIKA-NEE.

Fujimiya Konomi: Twelfth grader, the Koshigayas' neighbor. She usually holds off on sweets, but a moon viewing party is special, after all!


SO, *HO!* ACTUALLY, IT TURNS OUT EVERYONE'S GONNA STAY OVER TONIGHT!
WE CAN EAT DANGO AND PLAY UNTIL LATE!!
I-IS THAT SO?
HIKA-NEE, YOU THINK YOU CAN STAY OVER TONIGHT, TOO?
HA HA HA!
D-DUNNO? MAYBE. LET'S SEE HOW THINGS PLAY OUT?
SO, LIKE, I WONDER IF THE WEATHER'LL BE OKAY? IT MIGHT GET CLOUDY, SO WE SHOULDN'T GET OUR HOPES UP...
NOPE, THE WEATHER REPORT SAID IT'S THE PERFECT NIGHT FOR MOON VIEWING.
I-IT DID, HUH?
BUT, LIKE, AREN'T YOU GUYS GETTING A LITTLE **CARRIED AWAY?**
I MEAN, IT'S JUST LOOKING AT THE MOON, YOU KNOW? IT'S NOT THAT GREAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WATCHING TOGETHER WILL BE SUPER FUN. *AND WE HAVE* DANGO.
YEAH, BUT MAYBE THE DANGO WON'T BE THAT GREAT, EITHER...

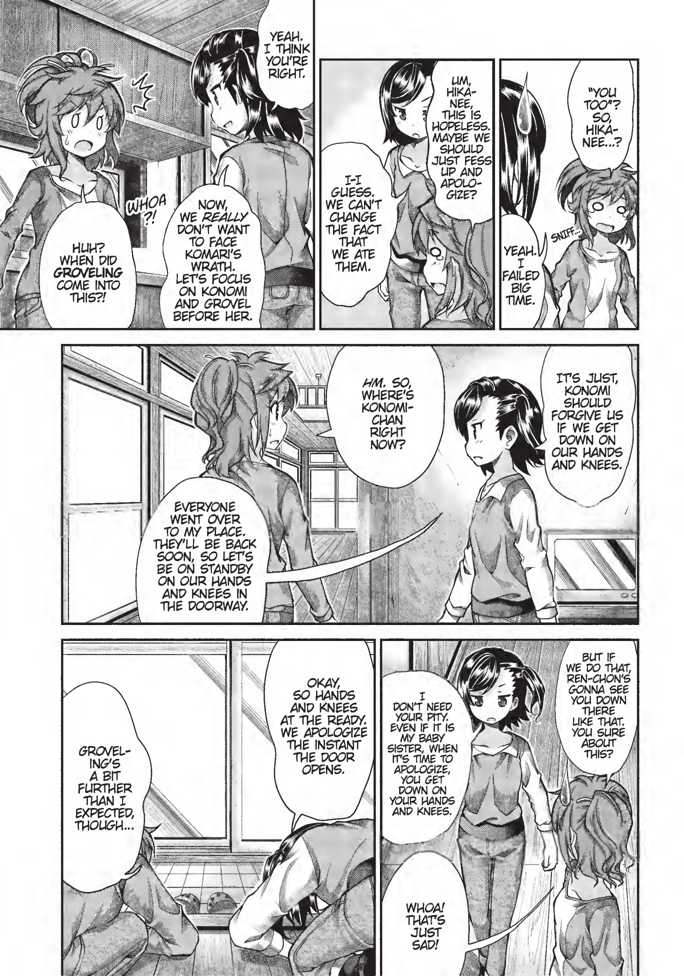
Ichijo Hotaru: This is her first proper moon viewing! She's looking forward to a sleepover with Sempai!

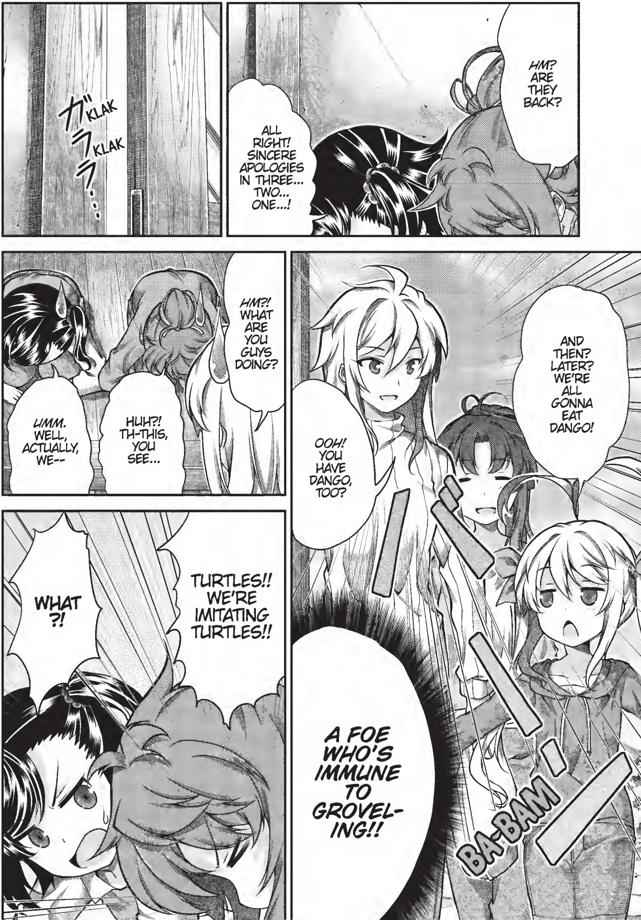

THAT REMINDS ME. AREN'T YOU GOING TO PUT ANYTHING IN THAT VASE?
OH! I TOTALLY FORGOT! I WAS GOING TO GO PICK SOME ZEBRA GRASS.
SO, WHY DO WE DECORATE WITH ZEBRA GRASS FOR MOON VIEWING, ANYWAY?
DUNNO? DO YOU KNOW, HIKA-NEE?
HUH?
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S 'CAUSE THEY DECORATED WITH RICE PLANTS TO CELEBRATE THE HARVEST.
SO IN PLACES WHERE YOU CAN'T GET RICE PLANTS, YOU USE ZEBRA GRASS INSTEAD.
WHAT? SO, IT WASN'T ZEBRA GRASS TO START WITH?
WE DECORATE WITH RICE PLANTS AT OUR HOUSE.
OH! SO THEN, MAYBE IF WE ASKED KAZUHO-SAN, SHE'D GIVE US SOME RICE? YOU GUYS DO HAVE A RICE FIELD AND ALL.
HEY! GOOD IDEA! VERY AUTHENTIC!
HEY, RENGE? D'YOU HAVE ANY RICE PLANTS LEFT?
IT'LL BE TOTALLY OKAY!! WE JUST HARVESTED THE RICE, SO WE GOT LOADS!!
REALLY?! OKAY, LET'S GO GET SOME NOW!
HUH? H-HANG ON!

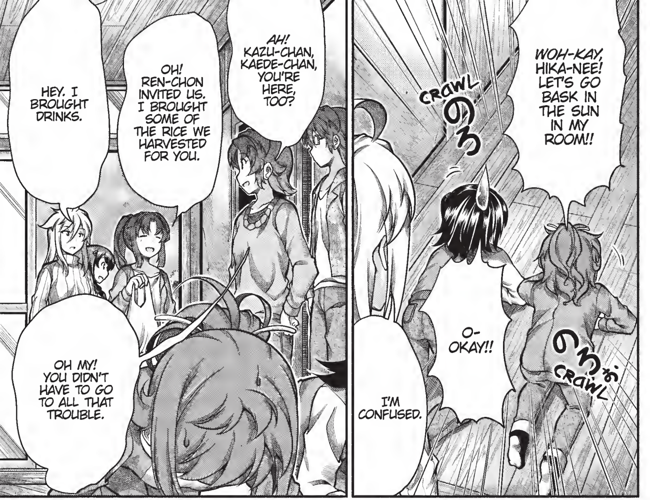

わい
WHEE!
わい
WHEE!
OH! IF I'M GOING TO STAY OVER, I SHOULD GO GET SOME PAJAMAS!
I CAN LEND YOU SOME.
GREAT, THEY'RE EVEN *MORE* EXCITED NOW...
GAH...
WELP, I TRIED. IT'S ALL UP TO NATSUMI NOW...
NATSU-MI!!
HOW'S IT GOING IN HERE?
IT TURNED INTO GLUE.
YOU TOO, HUH...?

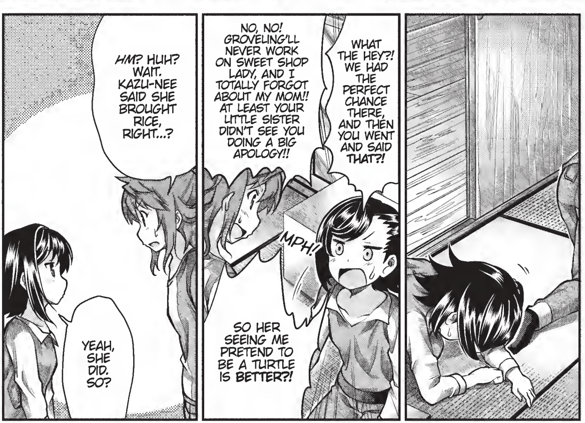
FACTOID

Moon viewing: Going out and having a party while looking at the moon, especially the full moon, is a custom in Japan said to date back to the Jomon era. The night of August 15 in the old calendar was called the Harvest Moon, and the saying "juugoyaotsukisan" (Mr. Moon of the Fifteenth) refers to that particular moon.

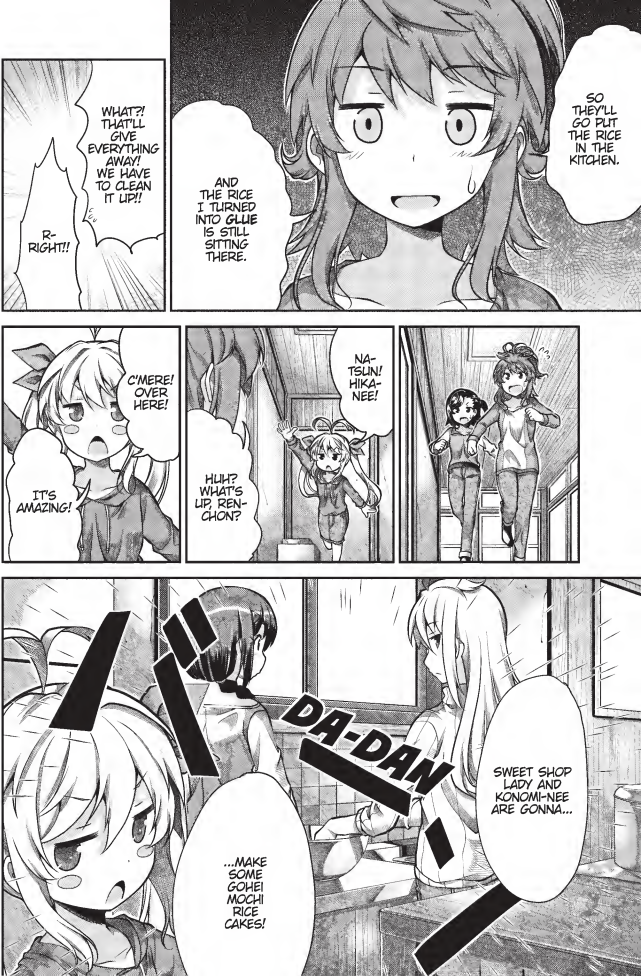

"YOU TOO"? SO, HIKA-NEE...?
SNIFF...
YEAH. I FAILED BIG TIME.
UM, HIKA-NEE, THIS IS HOPELESS. MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST FESS UP AND APOLOGIZE?
I-I GUESS. WE CAN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE ATE THEM.
YEAH. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOW, WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO FACE KOMARI'S WRATH. LET'S FOCUS ON KONOMI AND GROVEL BEFORE HER.
WHOA ?!
HUH? WHEN DID GROVELING COME INTO THIS?!
IT'S JUST, KONOMI SHOULD FORGIVE US IF WE GET DOWN ON OUR HANDS AND KNEES.
HM. SO, WHERE'S KONOMI-CHAN RIGHT NOW?
EVERYONE WENT OVER TO MY PLACE. THEY'LL BE BACK SOON, SO LET'S BE ON STANDBY ON OUR HANDS AND KNEES IN THE DOORWAY.
BUT IF WE DO THAT, REN-CHON'S GONNA SEE YOU DOWN THERE LIKE THAT. YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY. EVEN IF IT IS MY BABY SISTER, WHEN IT'S TIME TO APOLOGIZE, YOU GET DOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES.
WHOA! THAT'S JUST SAD!
OKAY, SO HANDS AND KNEES AT THE READY. WE APOLOGIZE THE INSTANT THE DOOR OPENS.
GROVELING'S A BIT FURTHER THAN I EXPECTED, THOUGH...

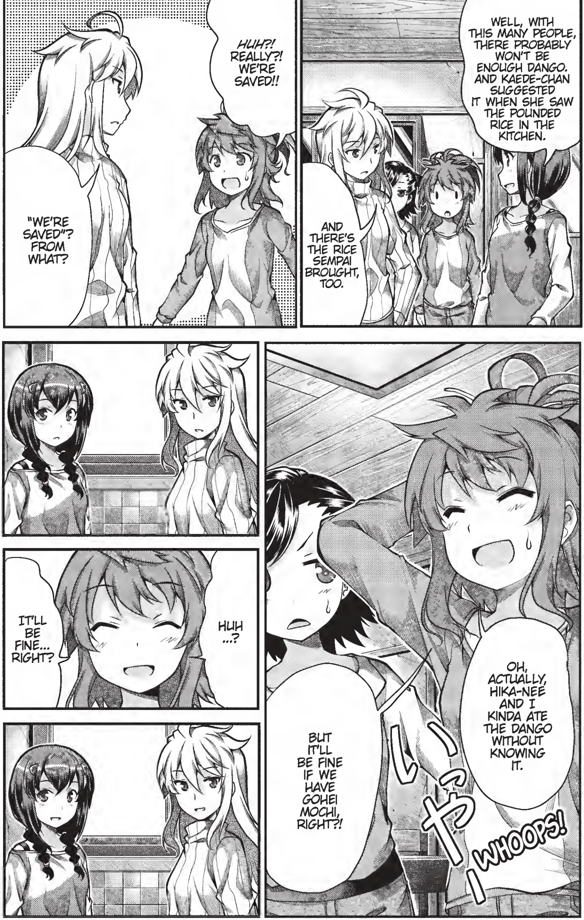

HM? ARE THEY BACK?
ALL RIGHT! SINCERE APOLOGIES IN THREE... TWO... ONE...!
ガラ... KLAK KLAK
AND THEN? LATER? WE'RE ALL GONNA EAT DANGO!
OOH! YOU HAVE DANGO, TOO?
A FOE WHO'S IMMUNE TO GROVELING!!
BA-BAM
HM?! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
HUH?! TH-THIS, YOU SEE...
UMM. WELL, ACTUALLY, WE--
TURTLES!! WE'RE IMITATING TURTLES!!
WHAT?!


WOH-KAY, HIKA-NEE! LET'S GO BASK IN THE SUN IN MY ROOM!!
CRAWL のろ
O-OKAY!!
I'M CONFUSED.
のろ CRAWL
AH! KAZU-CHAN, KAEDE-CHAN, YOU'RE HERE, TOO?
OH! REN-CHON INVITED US. I BROUGHT SOME OF THE RICE WE HARVESTED FOR YOU.
HEY. I BROUGHT DRINKS.
OH MY! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE.

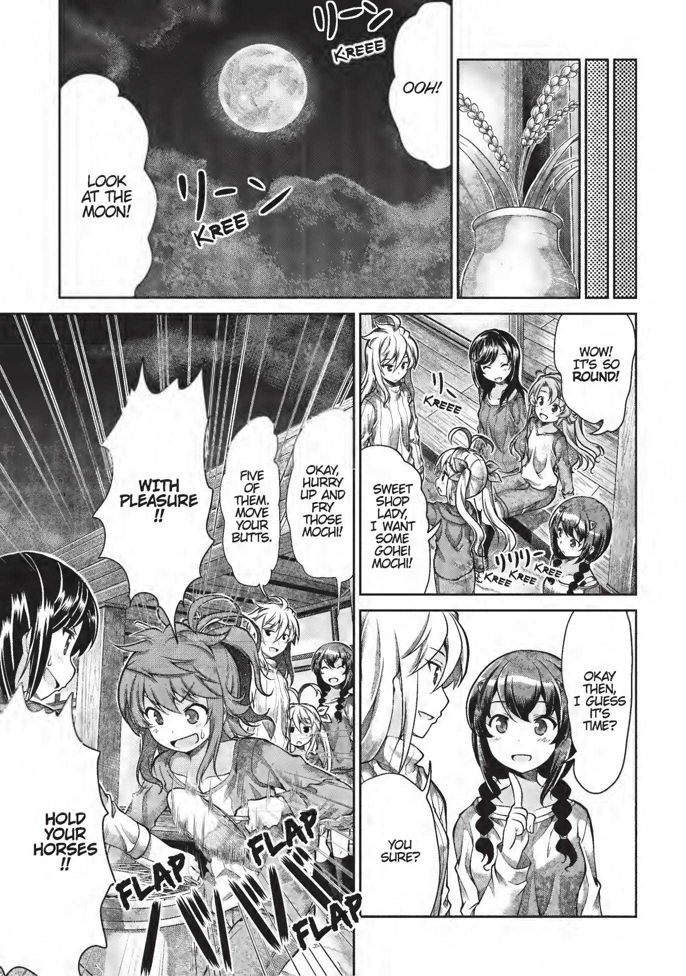

WHAT THE HEY?! WE HAD THE PERFECT CHANCE THERE, AND THEN YOU WENT AND SAID THAT?!
NO, NO! GROVELING'LL NEVER WORK ON SWEET SHOP LADY, AND I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT MY MOM!! AT LEAST YOUR LITTLE SISTER DIDN'T SEE YOU DOING A BIG APOLOGY!!
MPH!
SO HER SEEING ME PRETEND TO BE A TURTLE IS BETTER?!
HM? HUH? WAIT. KAZU-NEE SAID SHE BROUGHT RICE, RIGHT...?
YEAH, SHE DID. SO?

Miyauchi Kazuho: "How *niiice*, a moon viewing. When I look up at the big round moon, I somehow get sleep... Zzz..."


SO THEY'LL GO PUT THE RICE IN THE KITCHEN.
AND THE RICE I TURNED INTO **GLUE** IS STILL SITTING THERE.
WHAT?! THAT'LL GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY! WE HAVE TO CLEAN IT UP!!
R-RIGHT!!
NATSUN! HIKANEE!
HUH? WHAT'S UP, RENCHON?
C'MERE! OVER HERE!
IT'S AMAZING!
DA-DAN
SWEET SHOP LADY AND KONOMI-NEE ARE GONNA...
...MAKE SOME GOHEI MOCHI RICE CAKES!


WELL, WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE, THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE ENOUGH DANGO. AND KAEDE-CHAN SUGGESTED IT WHEN SHE SAW THE POUNDED RICE IN THE KITCHEN.
AND THERE'S THE RICE SEMPAI BROUGHT, TOO.
HUH?! REALLY?! WE'RE SAVED!!
"WE'RE SAVED"? FROM WHAT?
OH, ACTUALLY, HIKA-NEE AND I KINDA ATE THE DANGO WITHOUT KNOWING IT.
BUT IT'LL BE FINE IF WE HAVE GOHEI MOCHI, RIGHT?!
いっや
WHOOPS!
HUH ...?
IT'LL BE FINE... RIGHT?

Kagayama Kaede: Graduate of Asahigaoka Branch School. Currently manager of a sweet shop. A drink for moon viewing! It's chic sometimes to drink with the sweet dango, right?


リーン
KREEE
OOH!
LOOK AT THE MOON!
リーン
KREE
WOW! IT'S SO ROUND!
リー
KREEE
SWEET SHOP LADY, I WANT SOME GOHEI MOCHI!
リリリー
KREE
KREE
KREE
OKAY THEN, I GUESS IT'S TIME?
YOU SURE?
OKAY, HURRY UP AND FRY THOSE MOCHI!
FIVE OF THEM. MOVE YOUR BUTTS.
WITH PLEASURE!!
HOLD YOUR HORSES!!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

I CAME ALL THE WAY BACK HOME, AND THEY MAKE ME FRY MOCHI?

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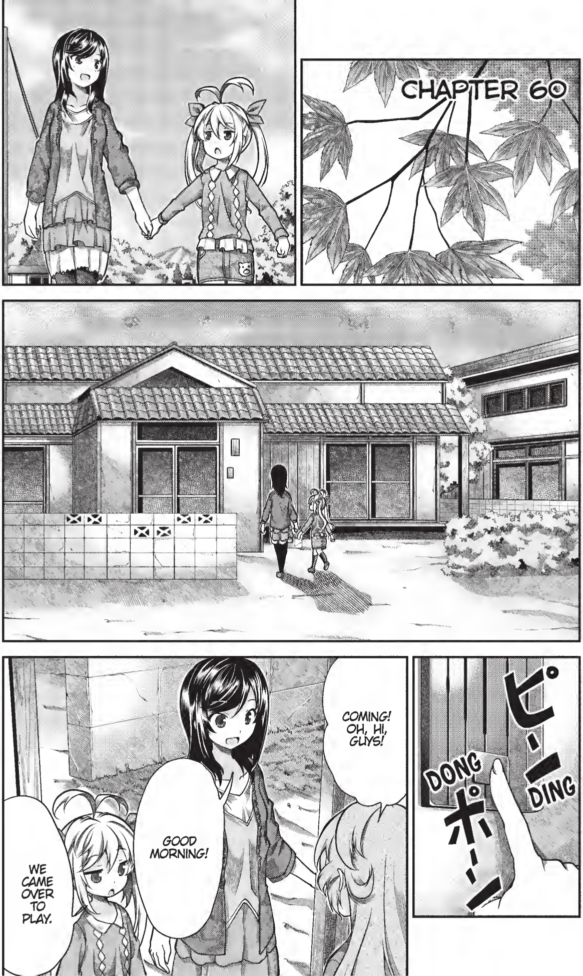
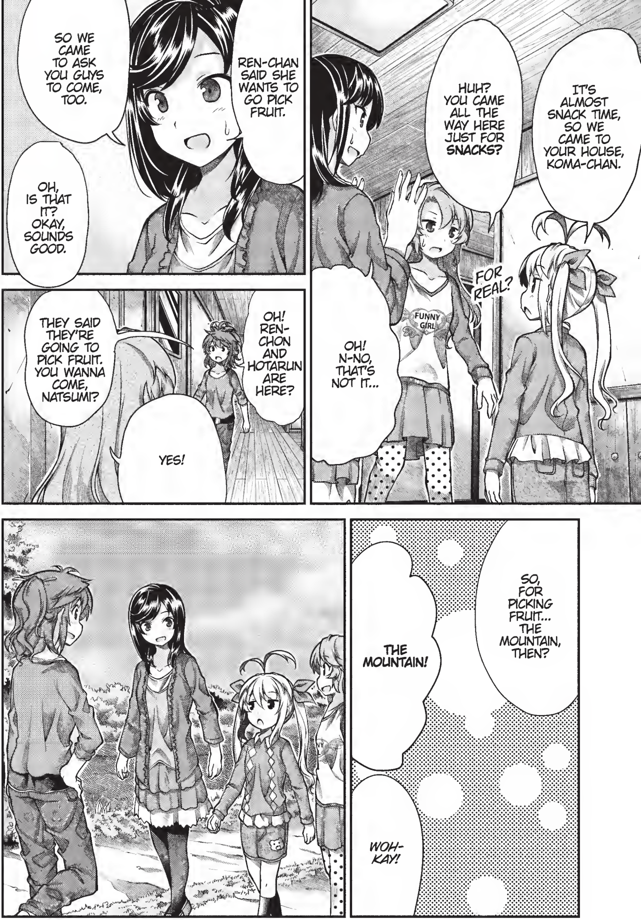
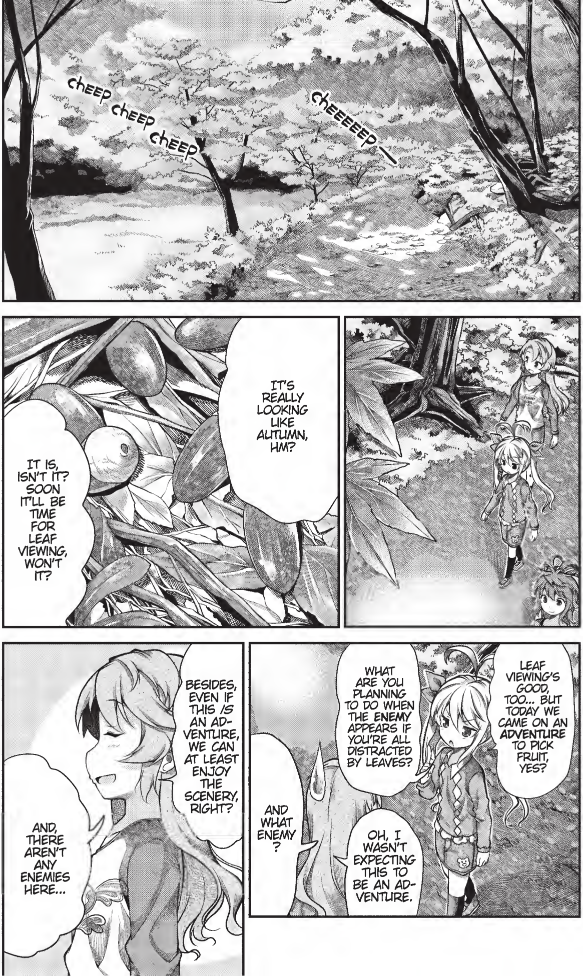
CHAPTER 60

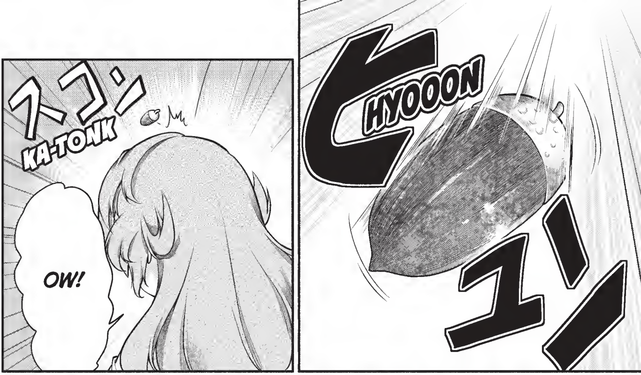

ピーン
DING
ポーン
DONG
COMING! OH, HI, GUYS!
GOOD MORNING!
WE CAME OVER TO PLAY.

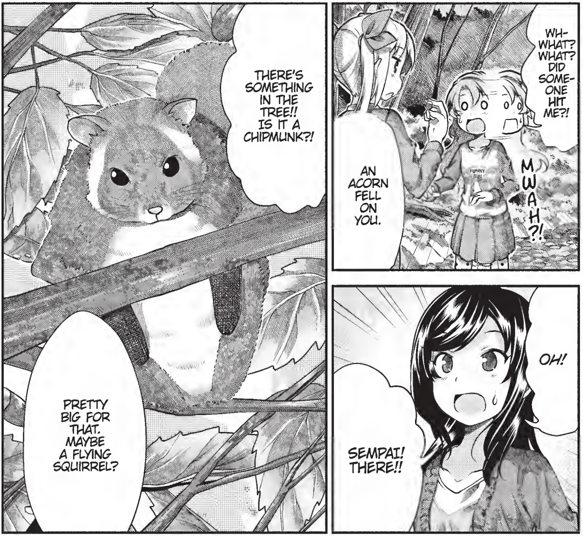

IT'S ALMOST SNACK TIME, SO WE CAME TO YOUR HOUSE, KOMA-CHAN.
HUH? YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST FOR SNACKS?
FOR REAL?
OH! N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
REN-CHAN SAID SHE WANTS TO GO PICK FRUIT.
SO WE CAME TO ASK YOU GUYS TO COME, TOO.
OH, IS THAT IT? OKAY, SOUNDS GOOD.
FUNNY GIRL
OH! REN-CHON AND HOTARUN ARE HERE?
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO PICK FRUIT. YOU WANNA COME, NATSUMI?
YES!
SO, FOR PICKING FRUIT... THE MOUNTAIN, THEN?
THE MOUNTAIN!
WOH-KAY!


CHEEEEEP—
CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP
IT'S REALLY LOOKING LIKE AUTUMN, HM?
IT IS, ISN'T IT? SOON IT'LL BE TIME FOR LEAF VIEWING, WON'T IT?
LEAF VIEWING'S GOOD, TOO... BUT TODAY WE CAME ON AN **ADVENTURE** TO PICK FRUIT, YES?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WHEN THE **ENEMY** APPEARS IF YOU'RE ALL DISTRACTED BY LEAVES?
OH, I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS TO BE AN ADVENTURE.
AND WHAT ENEMY?
BESIDES, EVEN IF THIS *IS* AN ADVENTURE, WE CAN AT LEAST ENJOY THE SCENERY, RIGHT?
AND, THERE AREN'T ANY ENEMIES HERE...

Miyauchi Renge: "I wanna pick all kinds of fruit today! Picking fruit is a case of me against the mountain!"

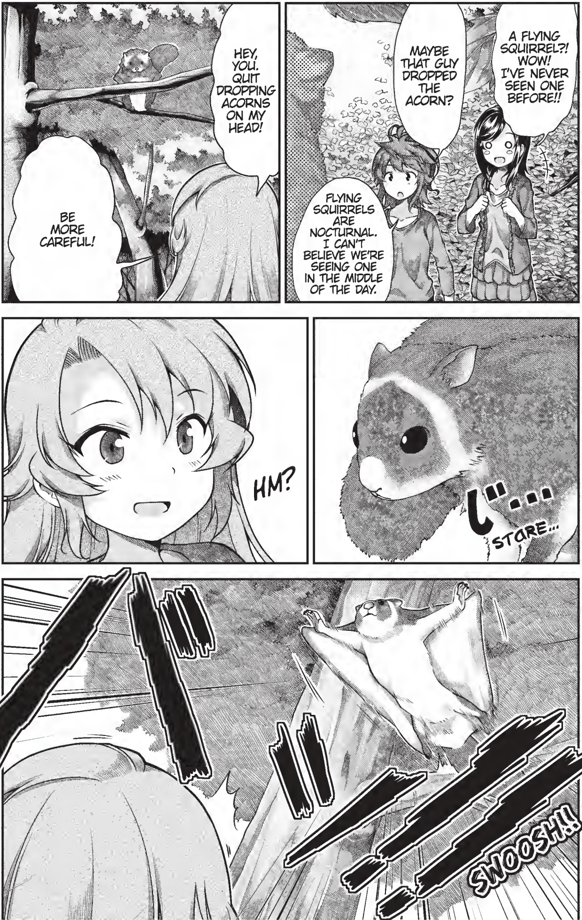
Ichijo Hotaru: She normally comes to the mountain quite often…but is there really that much fruit there?


ヒュン
HYOOON
スコン
KA-TONK
OW!


WH-WHAT? WHAT? DID SOME-ONE HIT ME?!
AN ACORN FELL ON YOU.
MWAH?!
OH!
SEMPAI! THERE!!
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE TREE!! IS IT A CHIPMUNK?!
PRETTY BIG FOR THAT. MAYBE A FLYING SQUIRREL?

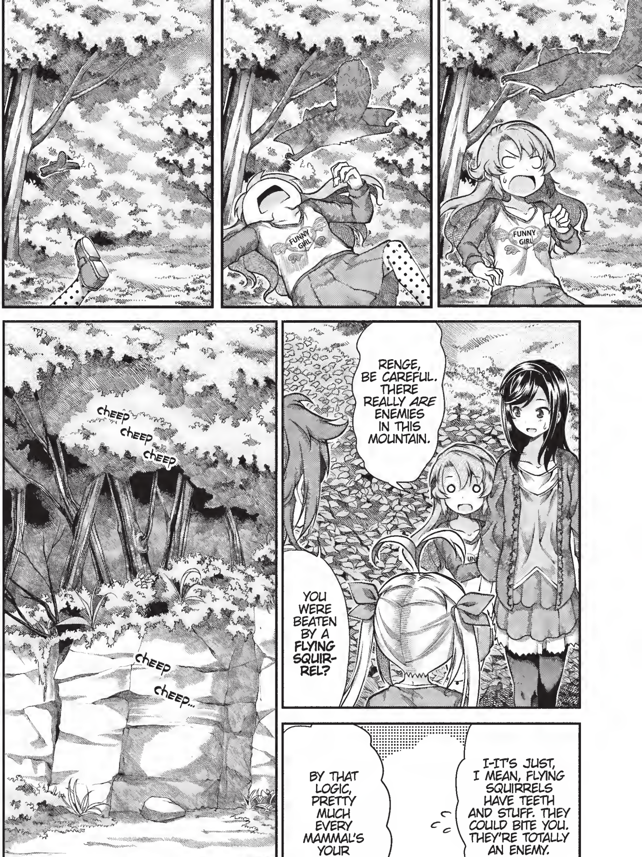
Koshigaya Komari: When leaf viewing season comes, there are so many delicious things to eat. It's a real problem!

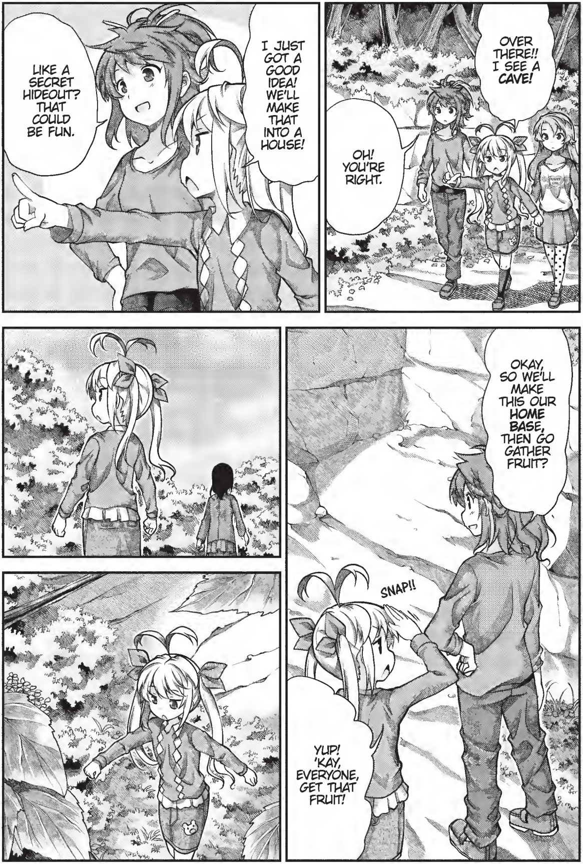
Koshigaya Natsumi: Flying squirrels usually only come out at night, so this is the first time she's gotten a really good look at one of their faces.


A FLYING SQUIRREL?! WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE!!
MAYBE THAT GUY DROPPED THE ACORN?
FLYING SQUIRRELS ARE NOCTURNAL. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SEEING ONE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.
HEY, YOU. QUIT DROPPING ACORNS ON MY HEAD!
BE MORE CAREFUL!
じ”…
STARE…
HM?
SWOOSH!!

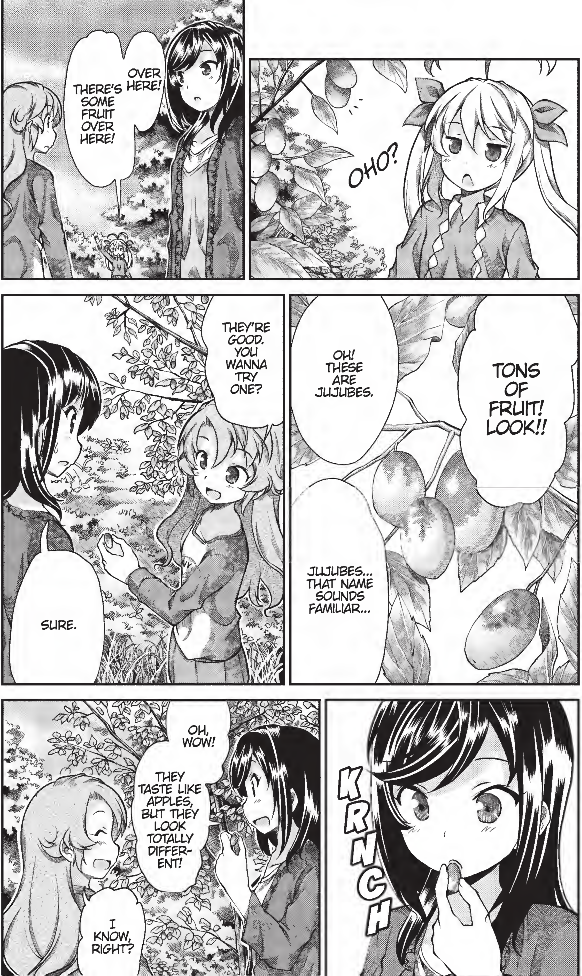
FACTOID

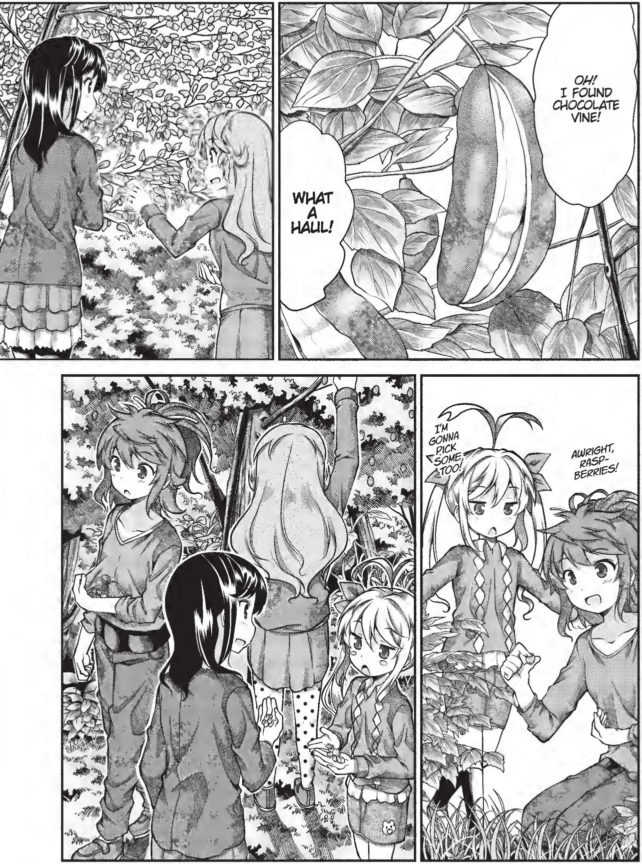
Japanese Giant Flying Squirrel: With a web of skin between its long front and back legs, this squirrel is well known for its ability to jump from tree to tree by spreading out that web and using it to glide through the air. Known more or less by name, it is actually the largest rodent native to Japan. It's also known by the name "nobusuma," a flying squirrel-type yokai.

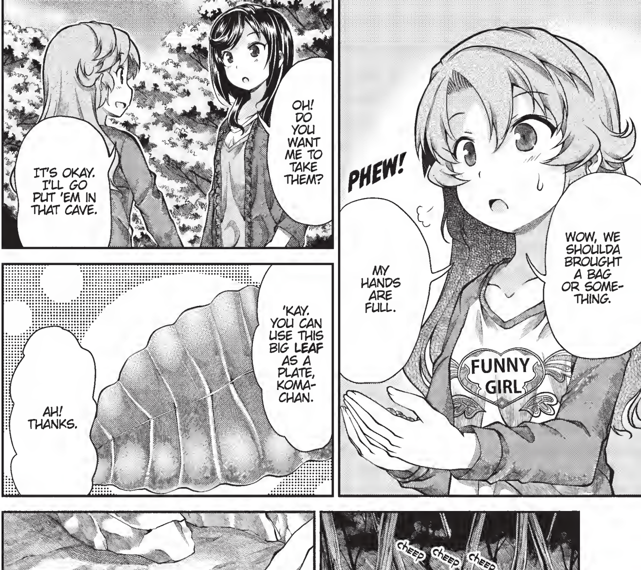

FUNNY GIRL
FUNNY GIRL
RENGE, BE CAREFUL. THERE REALLY *ARE* ENEMIES IN THIS MOUNTAIN.
YOU WERE BEATEN BY A **FLYING SQUIRREL?**
I-IT'S JUST, I MEAN, FLYING SQUIRRELS HAVE TEETH AND STUFF. THEY COULD BITE YOU. THEY'RE TOTALLY AN ENEMY.
BY THAT LOGIC, PRETTY MUCH EVERY MAMMAL'S YOUR ENEMY, NEECHAN.
cheep cheep cheep
cheep cheep...

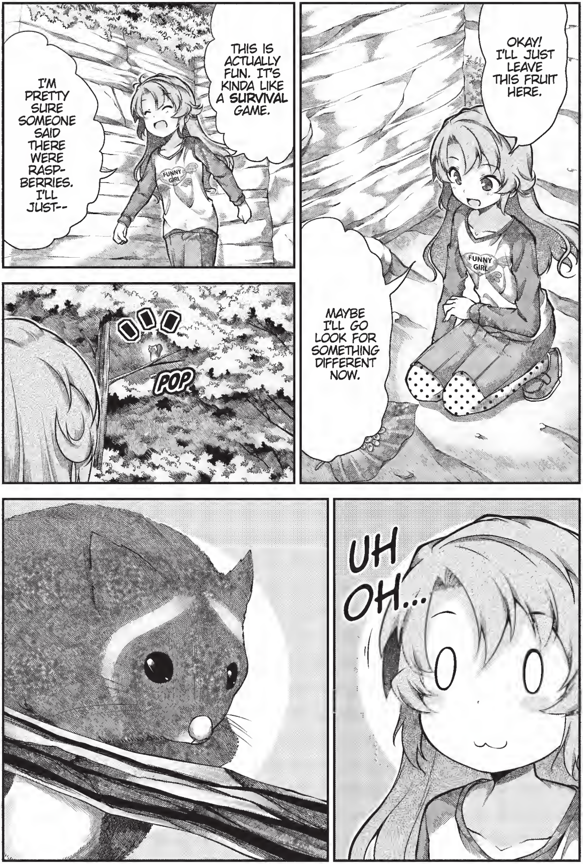

OVER THERE!! I SEE A CAVE!
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT.
I JUST GOT A GOOD IDEA! WE'LL MAKE THAT INTO A HOUSE!
LIKE A SECRET HIDEOUT? THAT COULD BE FUN.
OKAY, SO WE'LL MAKE THIS OUR HOME BASE, THEN GO GATHER FRUIT?
SNAP!!
YUP! 'KAY, EVERYONE, GET THAT FRUIT!

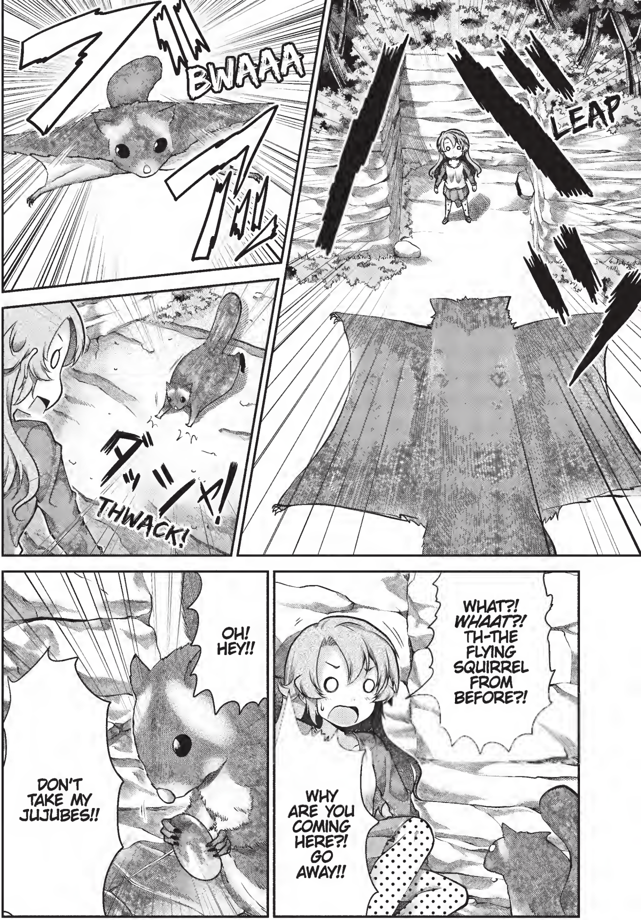
FACTOID **Jujube:** A fruit-bearing tree that came from China through west Asia and to Japan before the Nara era. The trees are often used in gardens and parks, as the fruit is not generally eaten in Japan. The fruit is dried, however, and used as an ingredient in sweets, or as a natural remedy. Rich in vitamins, iron, and folic acid.

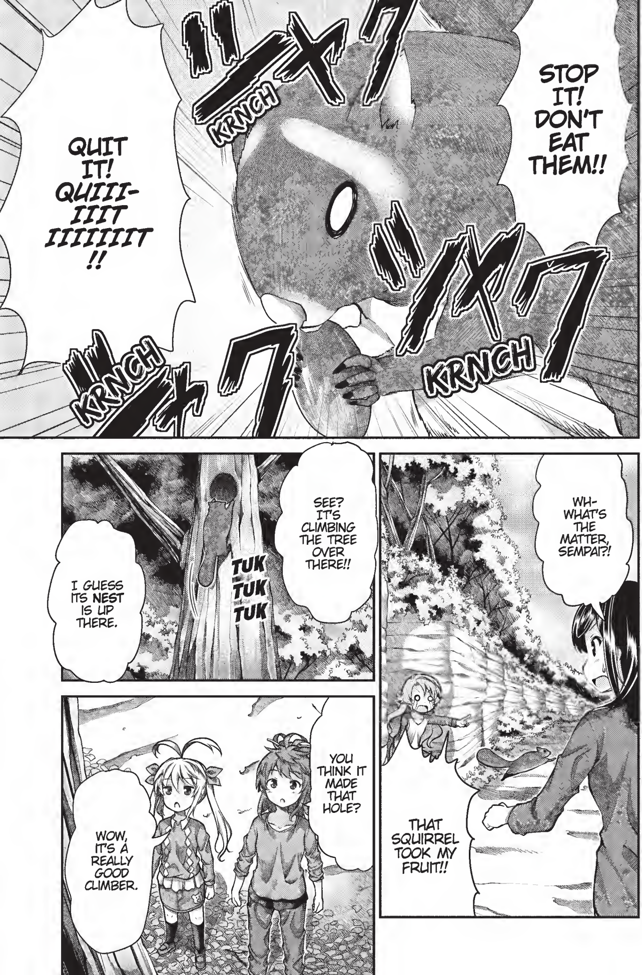

OHO?
OVER HERE! THERE'S SOME FRUIT OVER HERE!
TONS OF FRUIT! LOOK!!
OH! THESE ARE JUJUBES.
JUJUBES... THAT NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
THEY'RE GOOD. YOU WANNA TRY ONE?
SURE.
KRNCH
OH, WOW! THEY TASTE LIKE APPLES, BUT THEY LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT!
I KNOW, RIGHT?

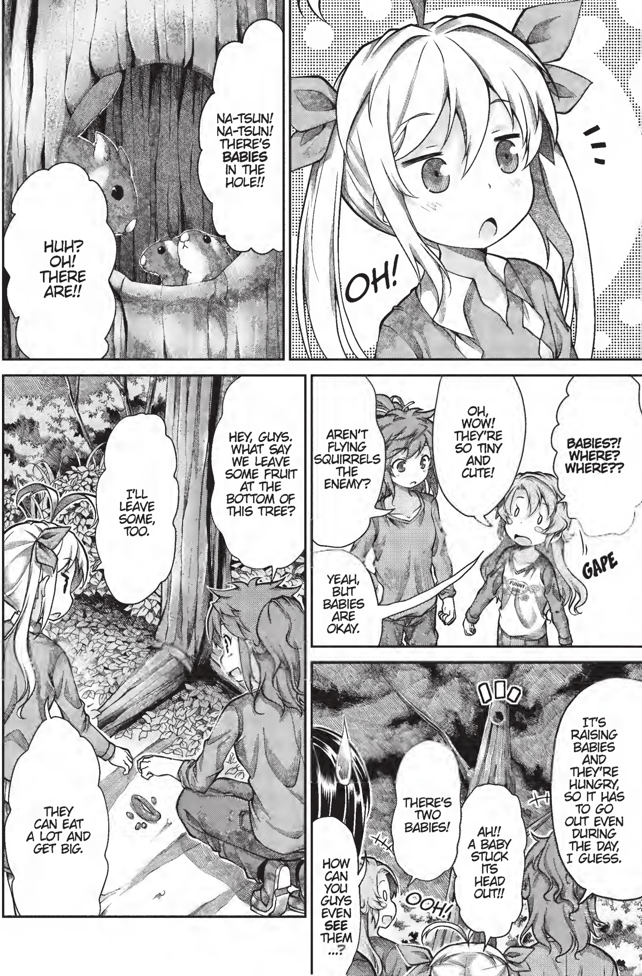

OH! I FOUND CHOCOLATE VINE!
WHAT A HAUL!
AWRIGHT, RASPBERRIES!
I'M GONNA PICK SOME, TOO!

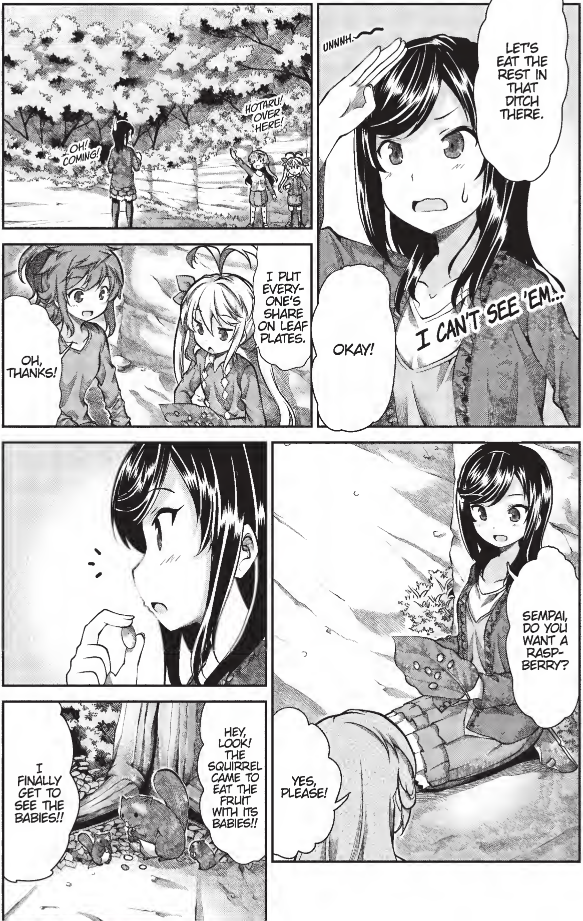

PHEW!
WOW, WE SHOULDA BROUGHT A BAG OR SOMETHING.
MY HANDS ARE FULL.
FUNNY GIRL
OH! DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THEM?
IT'S OKAY. I'LL GO PUT 'EM IN THAT CAVE.
'KAY. YOU CAN USE THIS BIG LEAF AS A PLATE, KOMA-CHAN.
AH! THANKS.
cheep cheep cheep...
THERE WE GO.

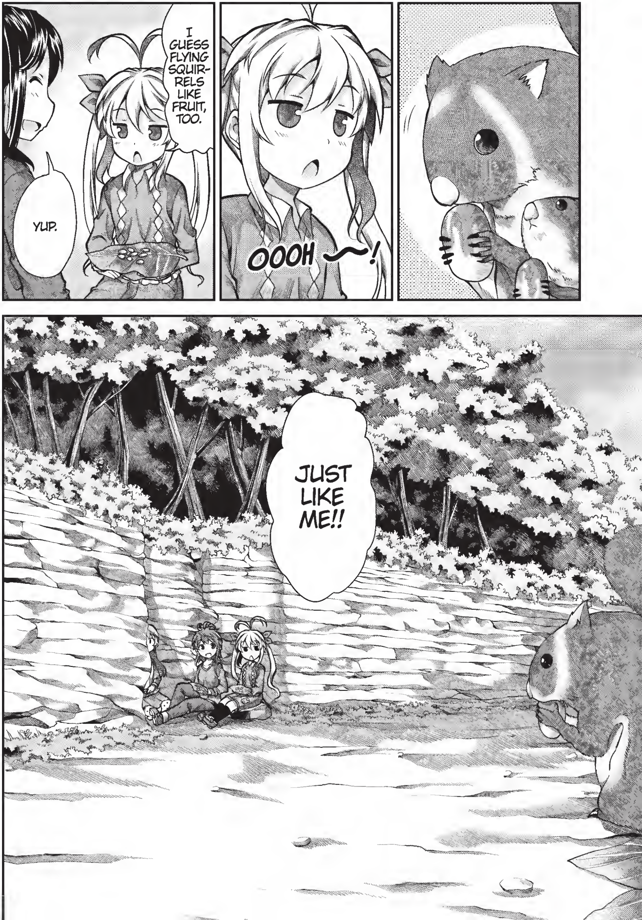

OKAY! I'LL JUST LEAVE THIS FRUIT HERE.
MAYBE I'LL GO LOOK FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW.
THIS IS ACTUALLY FUN. IT'S KINDA LIKE A **SURVIVAL** GAME.
I'M PRETTY SURE SOMEONE SAID THERE WERE RASPBERRIES. I'LL JUST--
FUNNY GIRL
POP
UH OH...


LEAP
BWAAA
ダッ
THWACK!
WHAT?! *WHAAT?!* TH-THE FLYING SQUIRREL FROM BEFORE?!
WHY ARE YOU COMING HERE?! GO AWAY!!
OH! HEY!!
DON'T TAKE MY JUJUBES!!


STOP IT! DON'T EAT THEM!!
KRNCH
QUIT IT! QUIIIIIIT IIIIIIIT!!
KRNCH
KRNCH
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER, SEMPAI?!
THAT SQUIRREL TOOK MY FRUIT!!
SEE? IT'S CLIMBING THE TREE OVER THERE!!
TUK TUK TUK
I GUESS ITS NEST IS UP THERE.
YOU THINK IT MADE THAT HOLE?
WOW, IT'S A REALLY GOOD CLIMBER.


OH!
NA-TSUN! NA-TSUN! THERE'S BABIES IN THE HOLE!!
HUH? OH! THERE ARE!!
BABIES?! WHERE? WHERE??
GAPE
OH, WOW! THEY'RE SO TINY AND CUTE!
AREN'T FLYING SQUIRRELS THE ENEMY?
YEAH, BUT BABIES ARE OKAY.
IT'S RAISING BABIES AND THEY'RE HUNGRY, SO IT HAS TO GO OUT EVEN DURING THE DAY, I GUESS.
AH!! A BABY STUCK ITS HEAD OUT!!
THERE'S TWO BABIES!
OOH!
HOW CAN YOU GUYS EVEN SEE THEM ...?
HEY, GUYS. WHAT SAY WE LEAVE SOME FRUIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS TREE?
I'LL LEAVE SOME, TOO.
THEY CAN EAT A LOT AND GET BIG.


LET'S EAT THE REST IN THAT DITCH THERE.
UNNNH.~~
I CAN'T SEE 'EM...
OKAY!
HOTARU! OVER HERE!
OH! COMING!
I PUT EVERYONE'S SHARE ON LEAF PLATES.
OH, THANKS!
SEMPAI, DO YOU WANT A RASPBERRY?
YES, PLEASE!
HEY, LOOK! THE SQUIRREL CAME TO EAT THE FRUIT WITH ITS BABIES!!
I FINALLY GET TO SEE THE BABIES!!


OOOH ~!
I GUESS FLYING SQUIRRELS LIKE FRUIT, TOO.
YUP.
JUST LIKE ME!!

I USED TO ENJOY EATING JUJUBES ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL.

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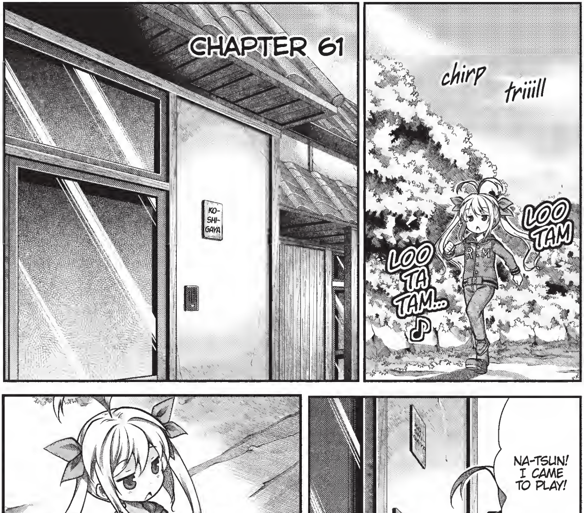
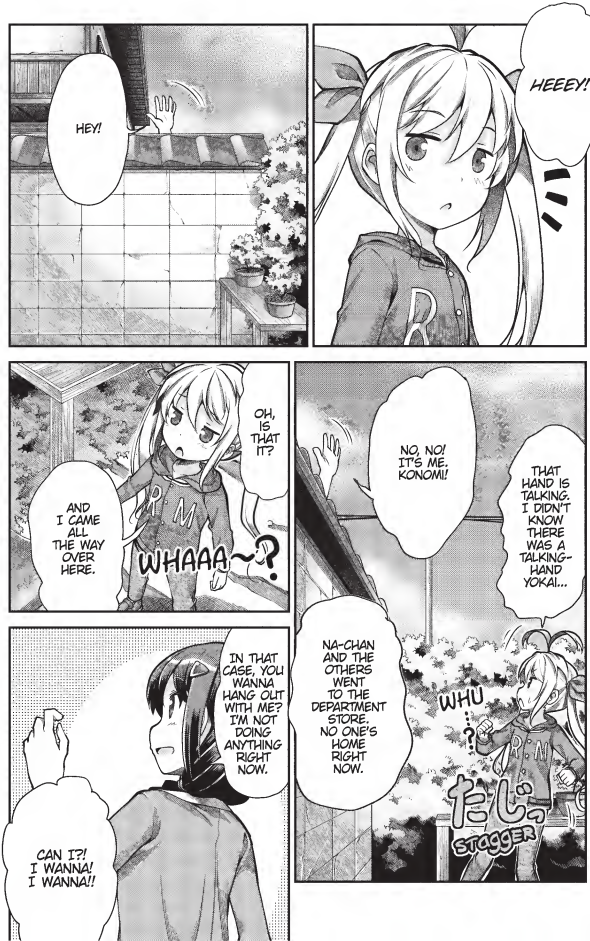
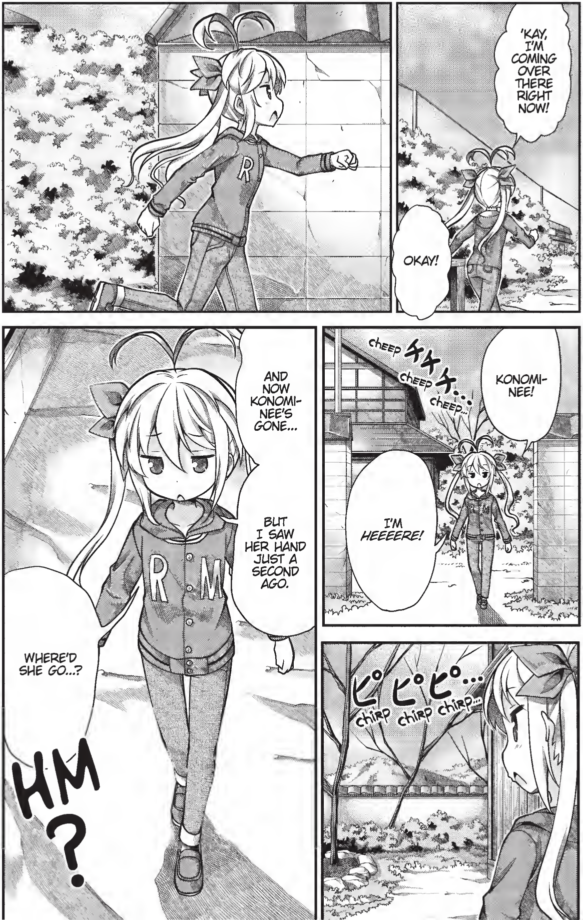
CHAPTER 61

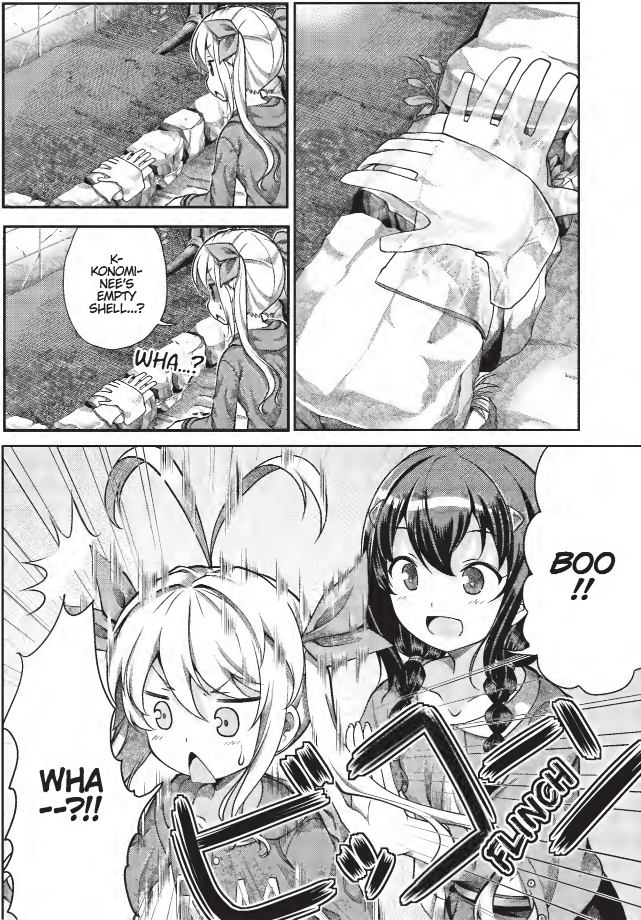

chirp
triiill
LOO TAM
LOO TA TAM... ♪
KO-SHI-GAYA
NA-TSUN! I CAME TO PLAY!
NA-TSUUUUN!
?
NO ANSWER.

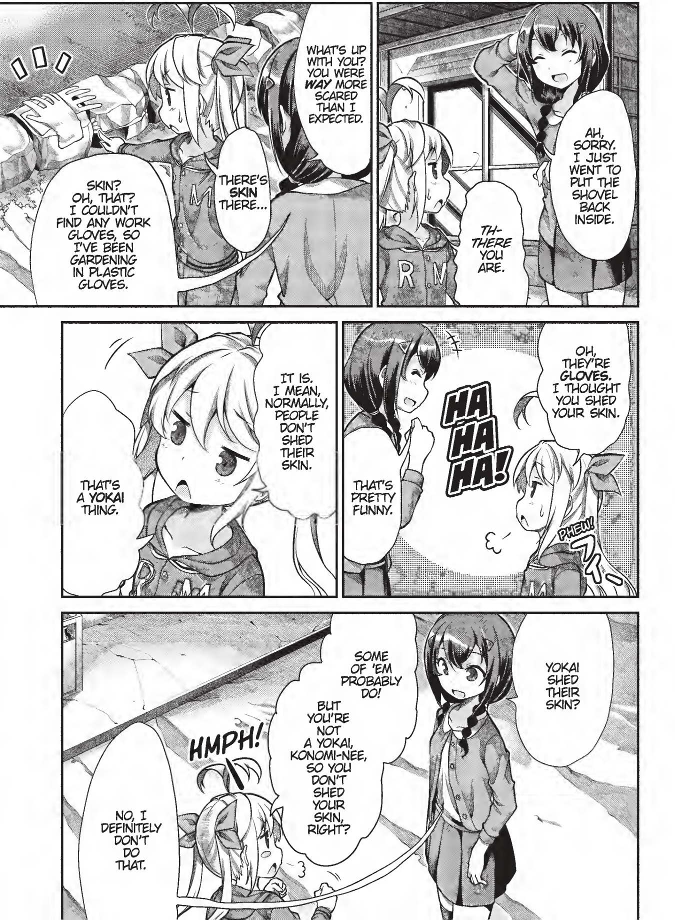

HEEEY!
HEY!
THAT HAND IS TALKING. I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A TALKING-HAND YOKAI...
NO, NO! IT'S ME. KONOMI!
WHU...?
たじっ
STAGGER
NA-CHAN AND THE OTHERS WENT TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE. NO ONE'S HOME RIGHT NOW.
WHAAA~?
OH, IS THAT IT?
AND I CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE.
IN THAT CASE, YOU WANNA HANG OUT WITH ME? I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
CAN I?! I WANNA! I WANNA!!

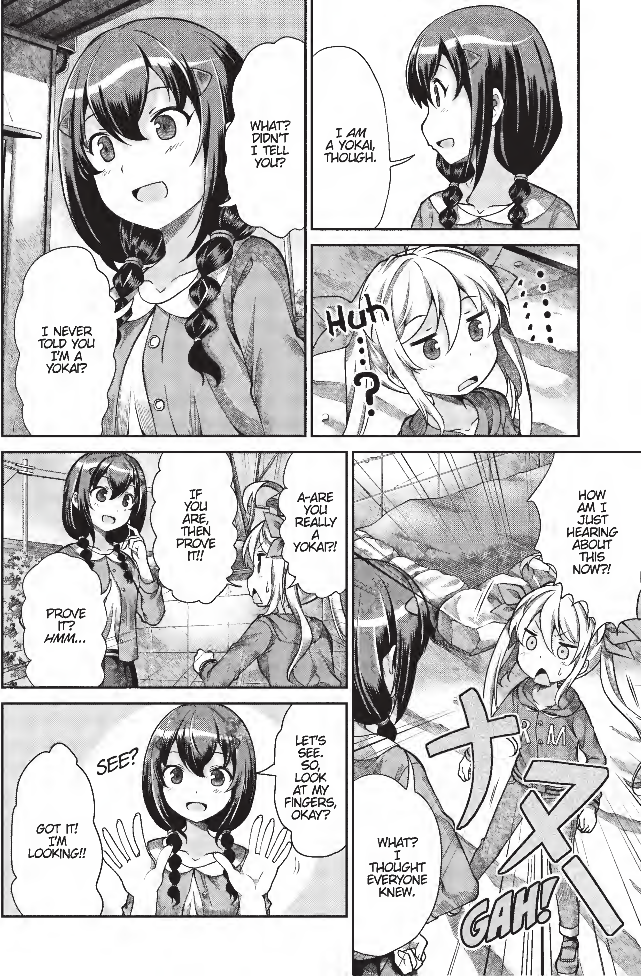
Miyauchi Renge: Unsullied by the world, today she learned something: Grown-ups lie...

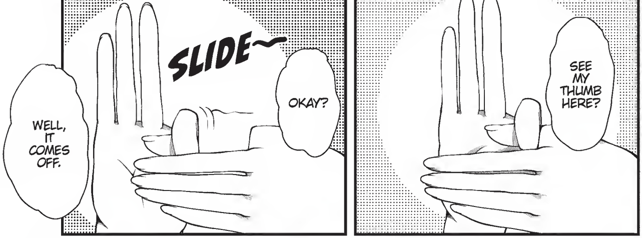
Fujimiya Konomi: Feared, never to be angered, she's an older girl and a highly skilled prankster.

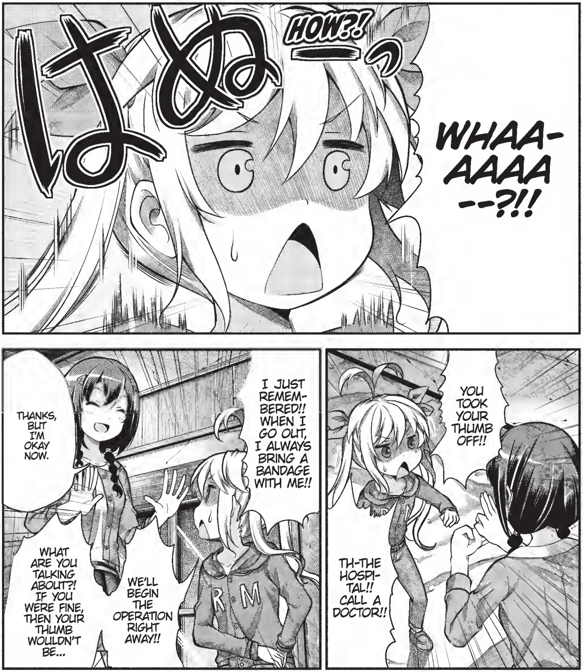

'KAY, I'M COMING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW!
OKAY!
cheep チ cheep チ… cheep…
KONOMI-NEE!
I'M HEEEERE!
AND NOW KONOMI-NEE'S GONE...
BUT I SAW HER HAND JUST A SECOND AGO.
WHERE'D SHE GO...?
HM?
ピ ピ ピ… chirp chirp chirp…


K-KONOMI-NEE'S EMPTY SHELL...?
WHA...?
BOO!!
WHA--?!!
FLINCH


AH, SORRY. I JUST WENT TO PUT THE SHOVEL BACK INSIDE.
TH-THERE YOU ARE.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU WERE WAY MORE SCARED THAN I EXPECTED.
THERE'S SKIN THERE...
SKIN? OH, THAT? I COULDN'T FIND ANY WORK GLOVES, SO I'VE BEEN GARDENING IN PLASTIC GLOVES.
OH, THEY'RE GLOVES. I THOUGHT YOU SHED YOUR SKIN.
HA HA HA!
THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY.
PHEW! フィー
IT IS. I MEAN, NORMALLY, PEOPLE DON'T SHED THEIR SKIN.
THAT'S A YOKAI THING.
YOKAI SHED THEIR SKIN?
SOME OF 'EM PROBABLY DO! BUT YOU'RE NOT A YOKAI, KONOMI-NEE, SO YOU DON'T SHED YOUR SKIN, RIGHT?
HMPH!
NO, I DEFINITELY DON'T DO THAT.

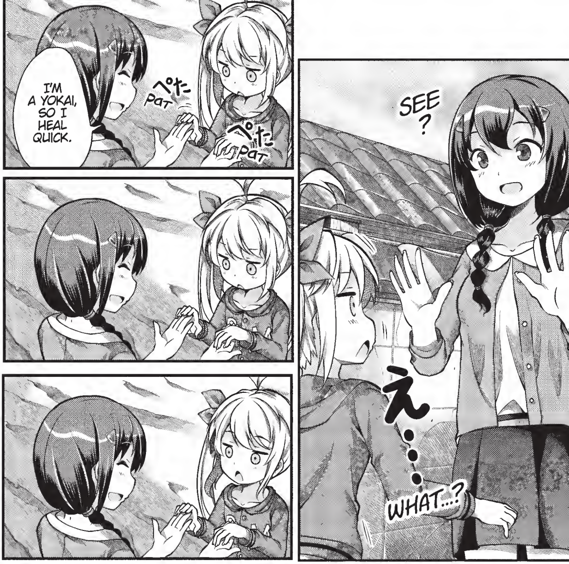

I AM A YOKAI, THOUGH.
WHAT? DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I NEVER TOLD YOU I'M A YOKAI?
Huh...?
......
HOW AM I JUST HEARING ABOUT THIS NOW?!
ナヌー
GAH!
WHAT? I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW.
A-ARE YOU REALLY A YOKAI?!
IF YOU ARE, THEN PROVE IT!!
PROVE IT? HMM...
LET'S SEE. SO, LOOK AT MY FINGERS, OKAY?
SEE?
GOT IT! I'M LOOKING!!

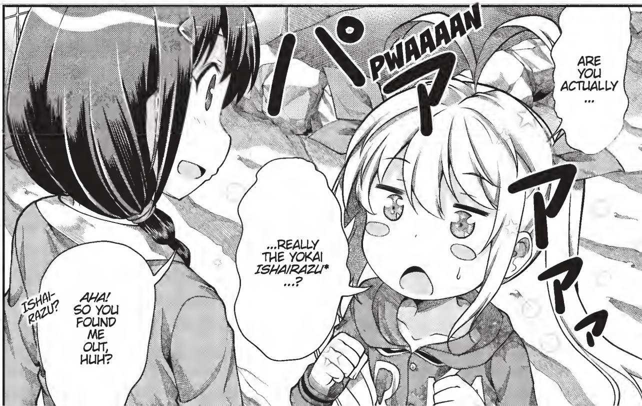

SEE MY THUMB HERE?
OKAY?
SLIDE~
WELL, IT COMES OFF.


はぬーっ
HOW?!
WHAA-AAAA--?!!
YOU TOOK YOUR THUMB OFF!!
TH-THE HOSPITAL!! CALL A DOCTOR!!
I JUST REMEMBERED!! WHEN I GO OUT, I ALWAYS BRING A BANDAGE WITH ME!!
THANKS, BUT I'M OKAY NOW.
WE'LL BEGIN THE OPERATION RIGHT AWAY!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IF YOU WERE FINE, THEN YOUR THUMB WOULDN'T BE...

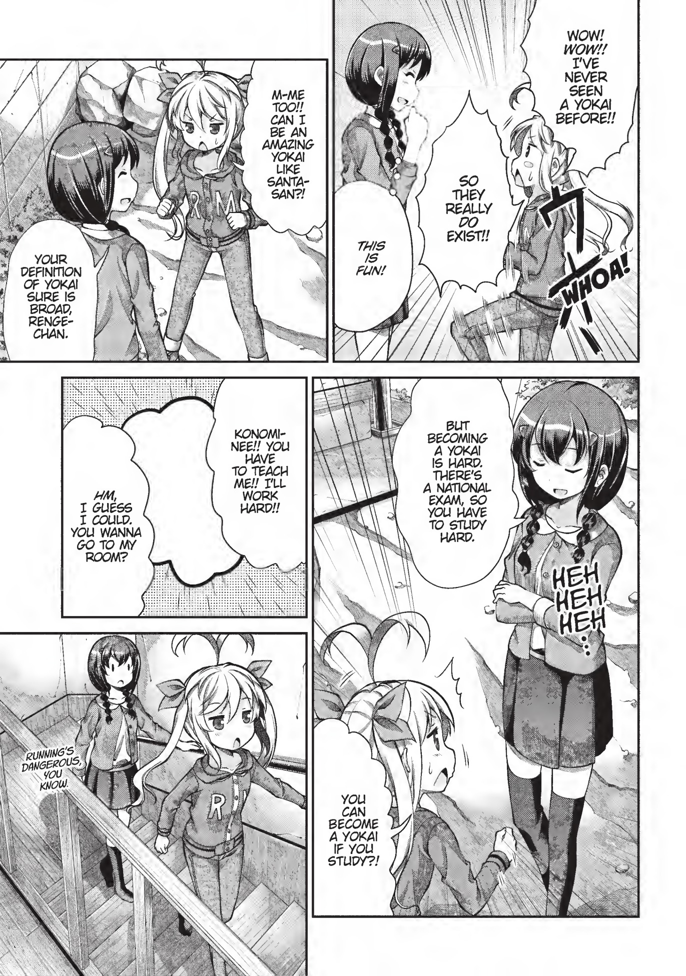
FACTOID

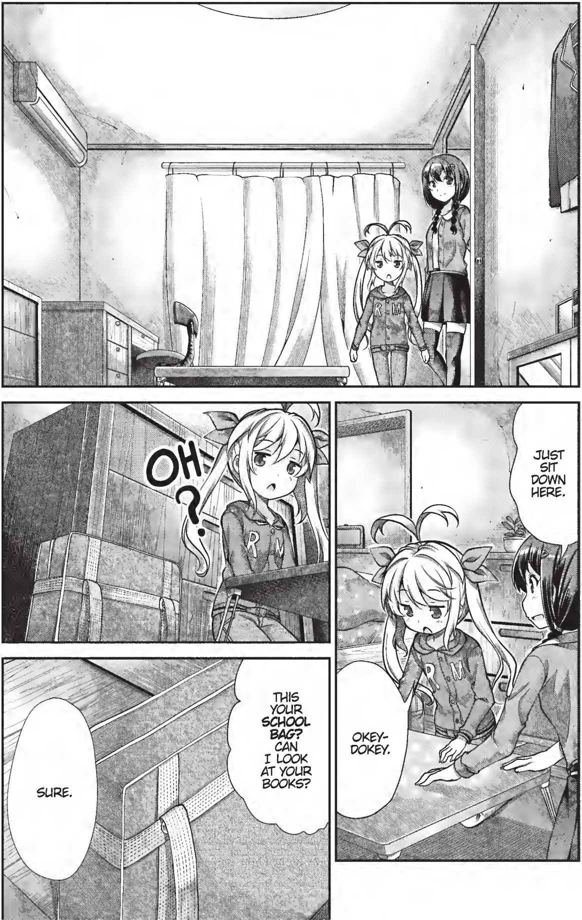
Transparent Trick: A dictionary might define it as something that would fool a child, but essentially, it means a trick that is obvious, of the sort that might fool a child even if the one being tricked is an adult. Everyone can learn a great deal from being tricked like this, even the author of this column. And this is how the Japanese economy rolls on.

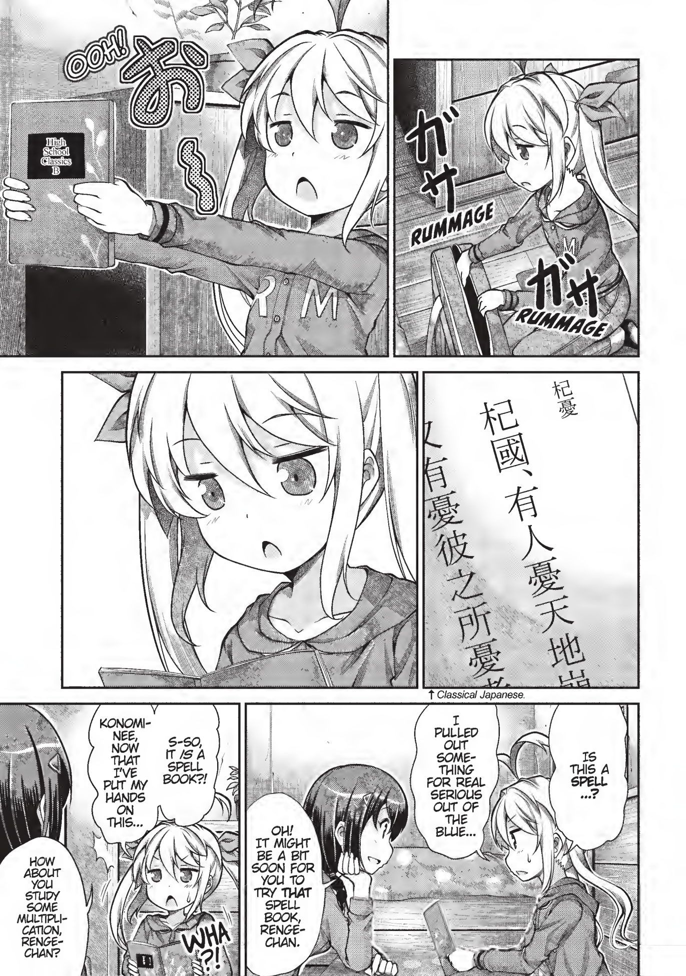

I'M A YOKAI, SO I HEAL QUICK.
ぺた PAT
ぺた PAT
SEE?
え… WHAT…?


パァァァ PWAAAAN
ARE YOU ACTUALLY …
…REALLY THE YOKAI ISHAIRAZU* …?
ISHAI-RAZU?
AHA! SO YOU FOUND ME OUT, HUH?

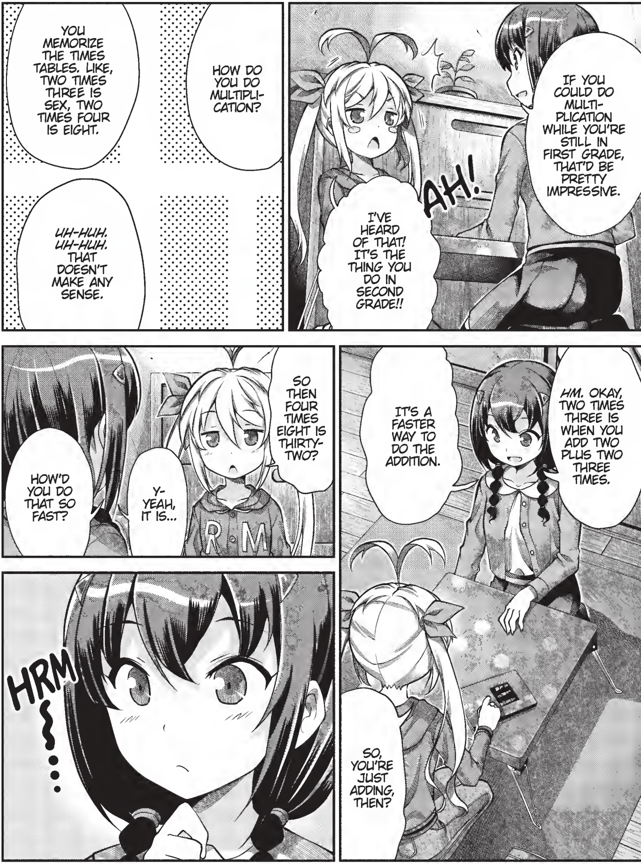
*Ishairazu means "no need for a doctor." Yokai often are named after a special feature or ability they possess.

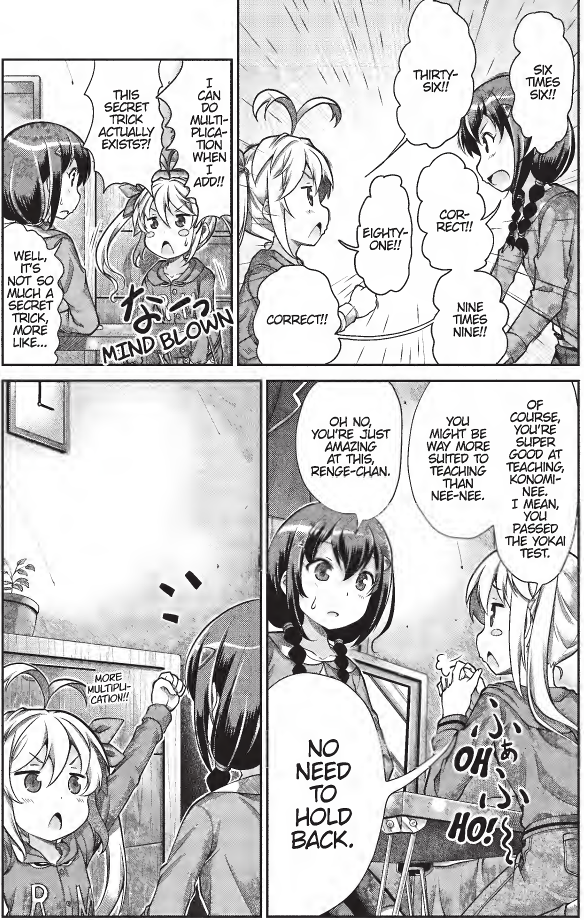

WOW! WOW!! I'VE NEVER SEEN A YOKAI BEFORE!!
SO THEY REALLY DO EXIST!!
WHOA!
THIS IS FUN!
M-ME TOO!! CAN I BE AN AMAZING YOKAI LIKE SANTA-SAN?!
YOUR DEFINITION OF YOKAI SURE IS BROAD, RENGE-CHAN.
BUT BECOMING A YOKAI IS HARD. THERE'S A NATIONAL EXAM, SO YOU HAVE TO STUDY HARD.
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU CAN BECOME A YOKAI IF YOU STUDY?!
KONOMI-NEE!! YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME!! I'LL WORK HARD!!
HM, I GUESS I COULD. YOU WANNA GO TO MY ROOM?
RUNNING'S DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW.


JUST SIT DOWN HERE.
OKEY-DOKEY.
OH?
THIS YOUR **SCHOOL BAG?** CAN I LOOK AT YOUR BOOKS?
SURE.


ガサ
RUMMAGE
ガサ
RUMMAGE
おぉ～
OOH!
High School Classics B
杞憂
杞國、有人憂天地
有憂彼之所憂
IS THIS A SPELL...?
I PULLED OUT SOMETHING FOR REAL SERIOUS OUT OF THE BLUE...
OH! IT MIGHT BE A BIT SOON FOR YOU TO TRY THAT SPELL BOOK, RENGE-CHAN.
S-SO, IT IS A SPELL BOOK?!
KONOMI-NEE, NOW THAT I'VE PUT MY HANDS ON THIS...
HOW ABOUT YOU STUDY SOME MULTIPLICATION, RENGE-CHAN?
WHA?!

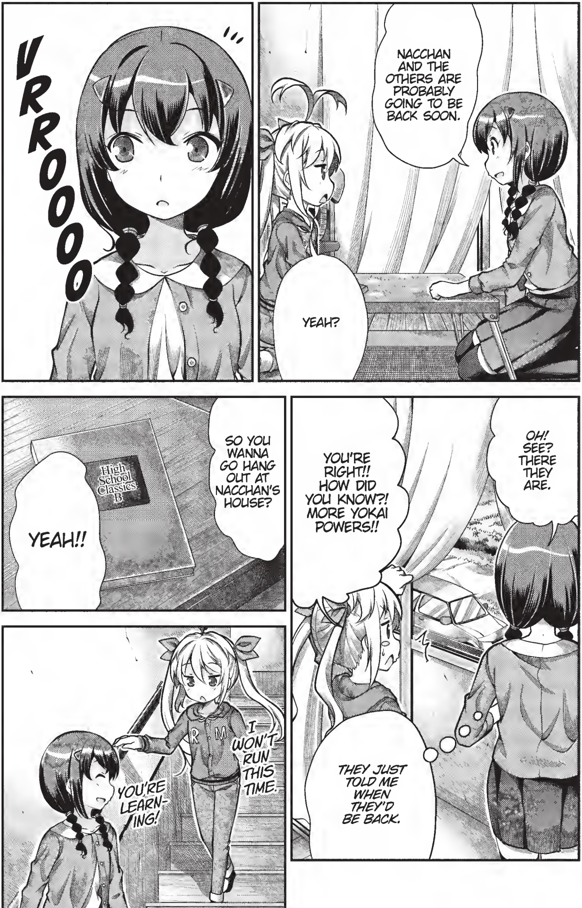
↑ *Classical Japanese.*

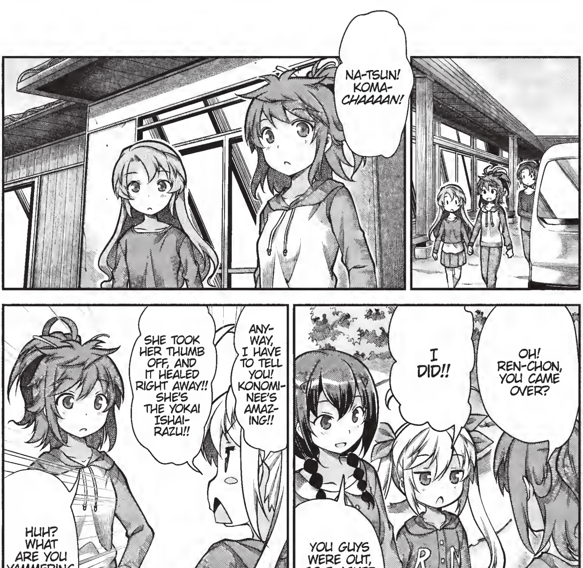

IF YOU COULD DO MULTIPLICATION WHILE YOU'RE STILL IN FIRST GRADE, THAT'D BE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.
AH!
I'VE HEARD OF THAT! IT'S THE THING YOU DO IN SECOND GRADE!!
HOW DO YOU DO MULTIPLICATION?
YOU MEMORIZE THE TIMES TABLES. LIKE, TWO TIMES THREE IS SEX, TWO TIMES FOUR IS EIGHT.
UH-HUH. UH-HUH. THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
HM. OKAY, TWO TIMES THREE IS WHEN YOU ADD TWO PLUS TWO THREE TIMES.
IT'S A FASTER WAY TO DO THE ADDITION.
SO, YOU'RE JUST ADDING, THEN?
SO THEN FOUR TIMES EIGHT IS THIRTY-TWO?
Y-YEAH, IT IS...
HOW'D YOU DO THAT SO FAST?
HRM~...

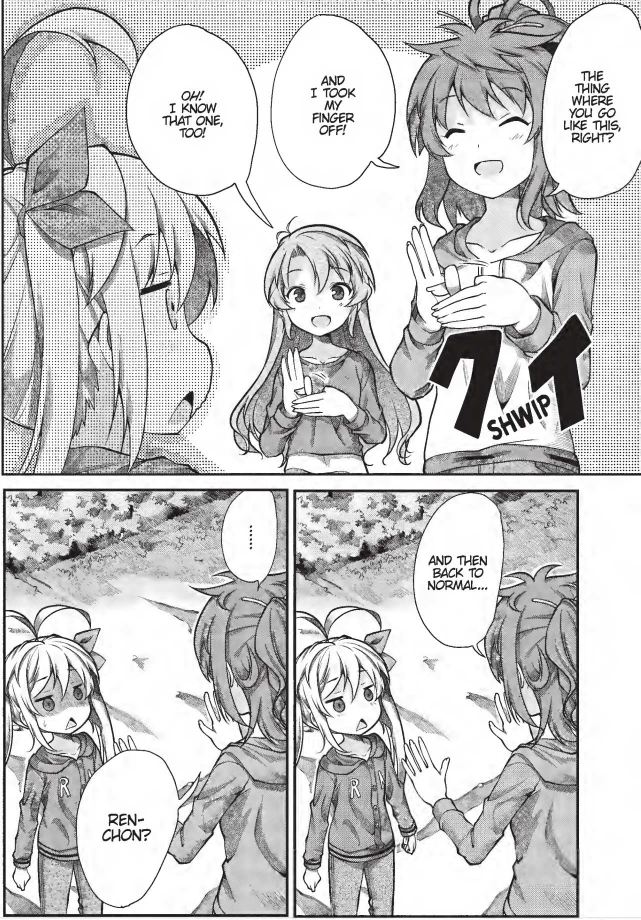

SIX TIMES SIX!!
THIRTY-SIX!!
CORRECT!!
NINE TIMES NINE!!
EIGHTY-ONE!!
CORRECT!!
I CAN DO MULTIPLICATION WHEN I ADD!!
THIS SECRET TRICK ACTUALLY EXISTS?!
なーっ
MIND BLOWN
WELL, IT'S NOT SO MUCH A SECRET TRICK, MORE LIKE...
OF COURSE, YOU'RE SUPER GOOD AT TEACHING, KONOMI-NEE. I MEAN, YOU PASSED THE YOKAI TEST.
YOU MIGHT BE WAY MORE SUITED TO TEACHING THAN NEE-NEE.
OH NO, YOU'RE JUST AMAZING AT THIS, RENGE-CHAN.
ふぁ、ふ
OH, HO!~
NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
MORE MULTIPLICATION!!

FACTOID

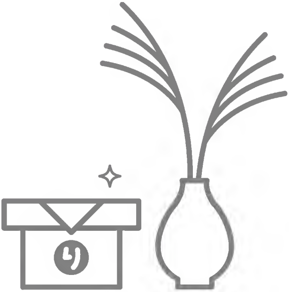
Times Tables: A bit of everyday knowledge. Called "nine-nine" in Japanese after the nine rows and columns that are multiplied together. Calling it "nine-nine" rather than "one-one" is left over from a time when it was originally read from the end. The times tables are said to have come over from China in the Yamato era, and were considered part of a noble's education in the Heian era. In a modern Japanese curriculum, they fall somewhere in grade two.


NACCHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE PROBABLY GOING TO BE BACK SOON.
YEAH?
VRROOOOO
OH! SEE? THERE THEY ARE.
YOU'RE RIGHT!! HOW DID YOU KNOW?! MORE YOKAI POWERS!!
THEY JUST TOLD ME WHEN THEY'D BE BACK.
SO YOU WANNA GO HANG OUT AT NACCHAN'S HOUSE?
YEAH!!
High School Classics B
I WON'T RUN THIS TIME.
YOU'RE LEARNING!

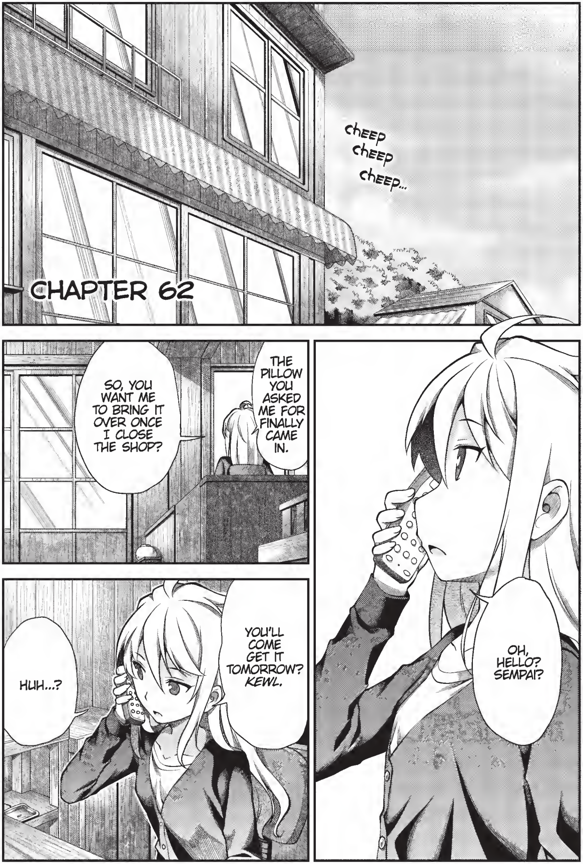

NA-TSUN! KOMA-CHAAAAN!
OH! REN-CHON, YOU CAME OVER?
I DID!!
YOU GUYS WERE OUT, SO I ASKED HER OVER TO MY HOUSE.
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO TELL YOU! KONOMI-NEE'S AMAZING!!
SHE TOOK HER THUMB OFF, AND IT HEALED RIGHT AWAY!! SHE'S THE YOKAI ISHAI-RAZU!!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU YAMMERING ABOUT?
OH, RENGE-CHAN'S REACTION WAS PRICELESS!
LOOK. I SHOWED YOU THIS BEFORE.
OH, THAT?

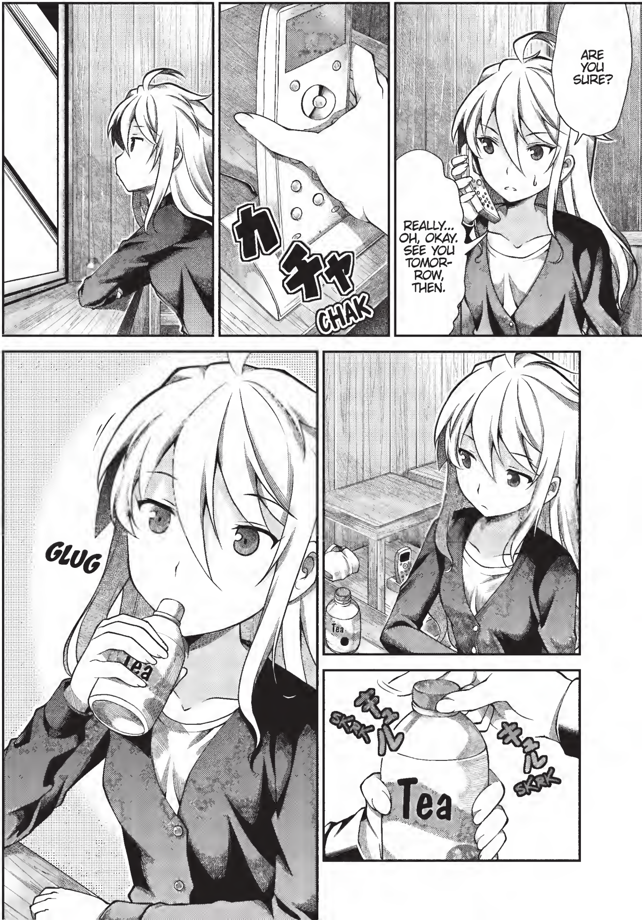

THE THING WHERE YOU GO LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
クイ
SHWIP
AND I TOOK MY FINGER OFF!
OH! I KNOW THAT ONE, TOO!
AND THEN BACK TO NORMAL...
......
REN-CHON?

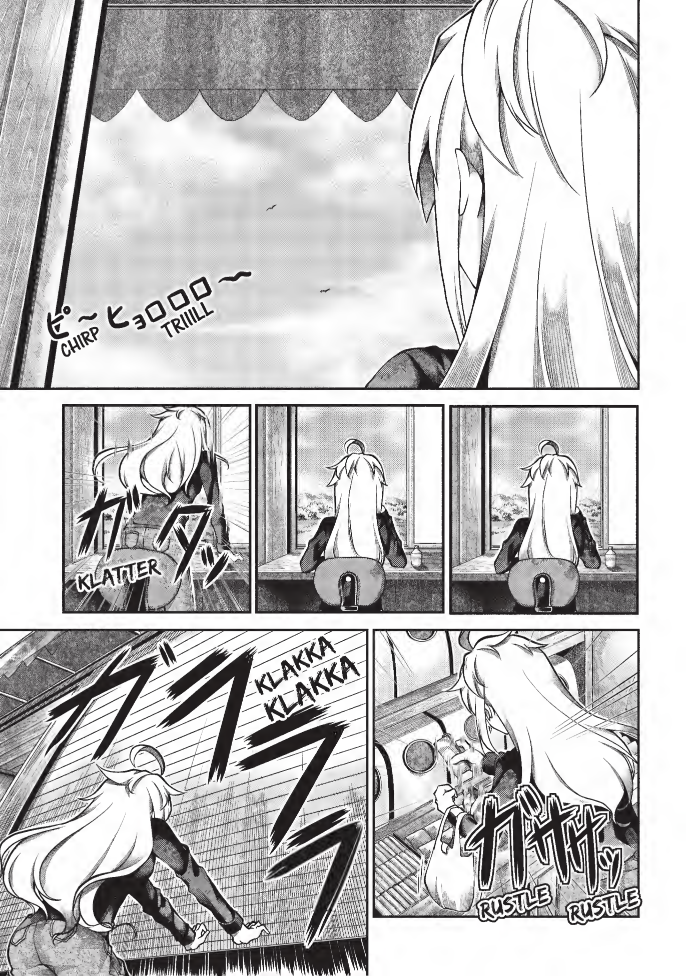
ONE THING ABOUT LIVING IN THIS TOWN I COULD NEVER STOMACH... ALL THE DARN YOKAI...

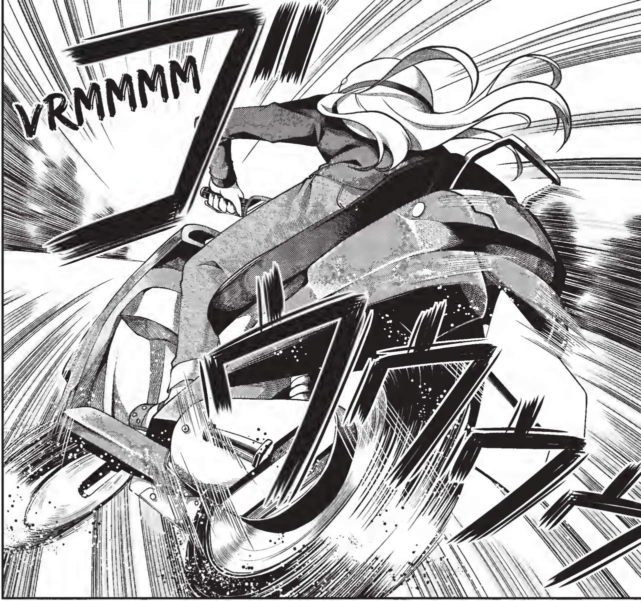

り

CHAPTER 62

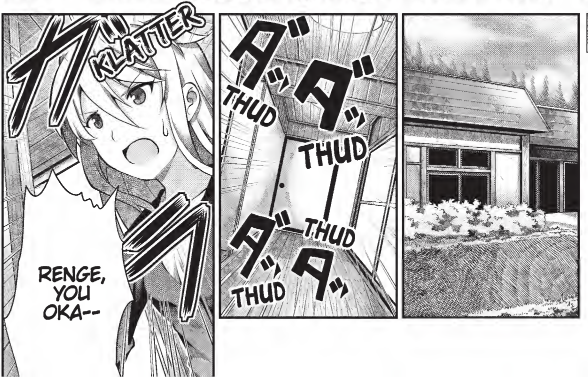

cheep
cheep
cheep...
OH, HELLO? SEMPAI?
THE PILLOW YOU ASKED ME FOR FINALLY CAME IN.
SO, YOU WANT ME TO BRING IT OVER ONCE I CLOSE THE SHOP?
YOU'LL COME GET IT TOMORROW? *KEWL.*
HUH...?

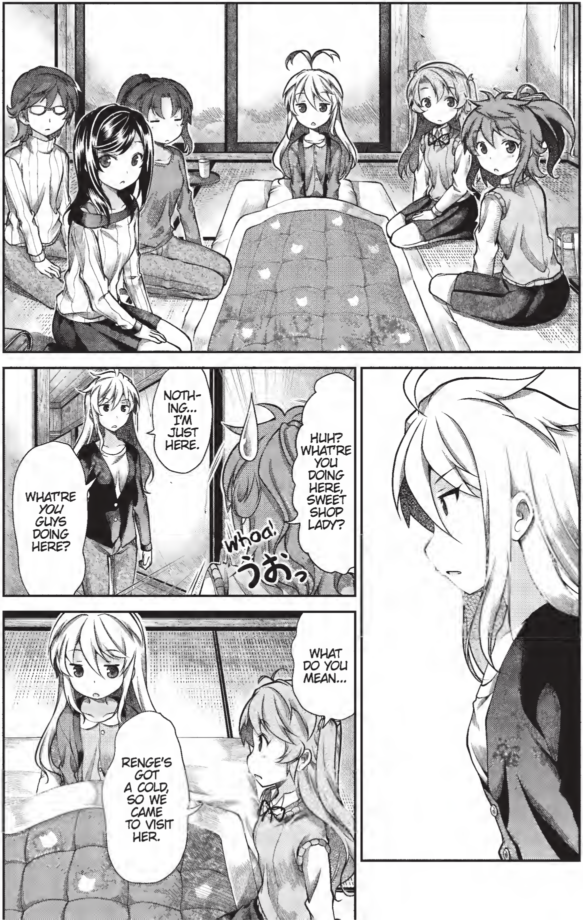

ARE YOU SURE?
REALLY... OH, OKAY. SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN.
カチャ
CHAK
Tea
キュル
SKRK
キュル
SKRK
Tea
GLUG
Tea


ピ～ヒョロロロ～～
CHIRP
TRIIILL
ガタッ
KLATTER
ガララ
KLAKKA KLAKKA
ガサササッ
RUSTLE RUSTLE



Kagayama Kaede: If she drowns herself in drink when she catches a cold, she's certain to get better.


THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
KLATTER
RENGE, YOU OKA--

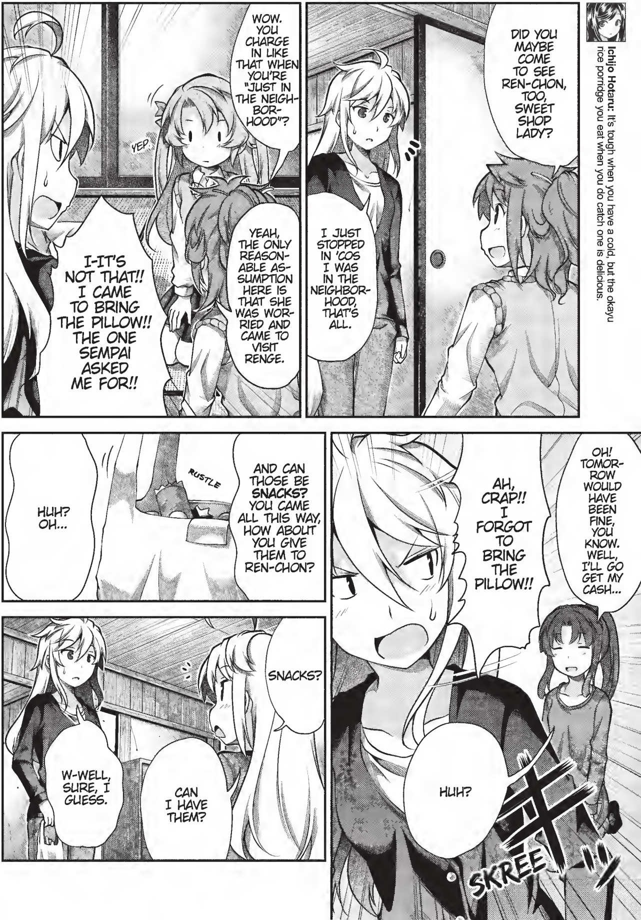

Whoa!
うおっ
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, SWEET SHOP LADY?
NOTHING... I'M JUST HERE.
WHAT'RE *YOU* GUYS DOING HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
RENGE'S GOT A COLD, SO WE CAME TO VISIT HER.

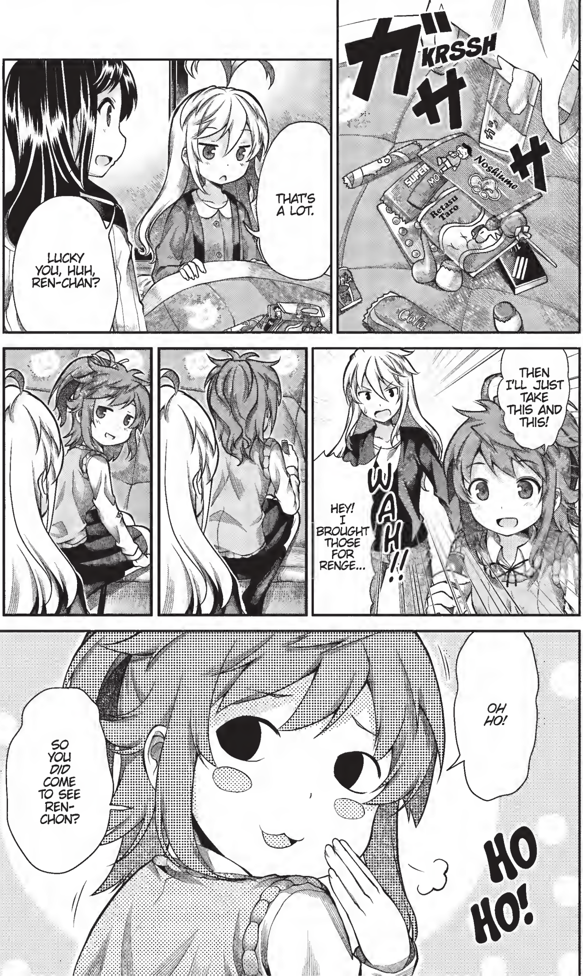
Miyauchi Renge: When she catches a cold, she has to stay in bed, so it's pretty boring...

Koshigaya Komari: The medicine you take when you feel a cold coming on...like kudzu or something? It's too bitter, and she'd rather not take it.

Koshigaya Natsumi: She doesn't remember the last time she caught a cold, but she's no dummy, so she'll catch one yet...!

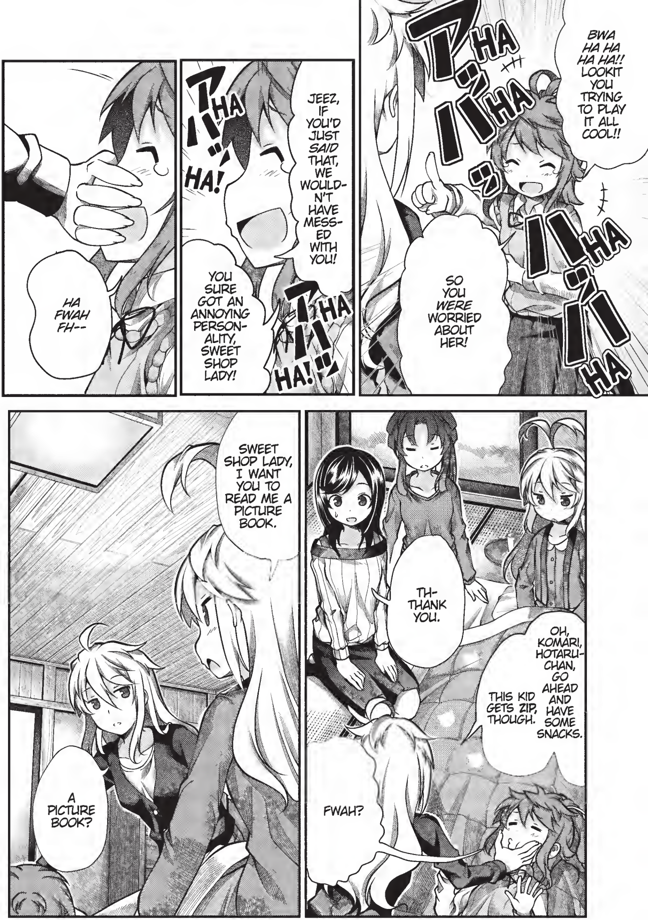
Ichijo Hotaru: It's tough when you have a cold, but the okayu rice porridge you eat when you do catch one is delicious.

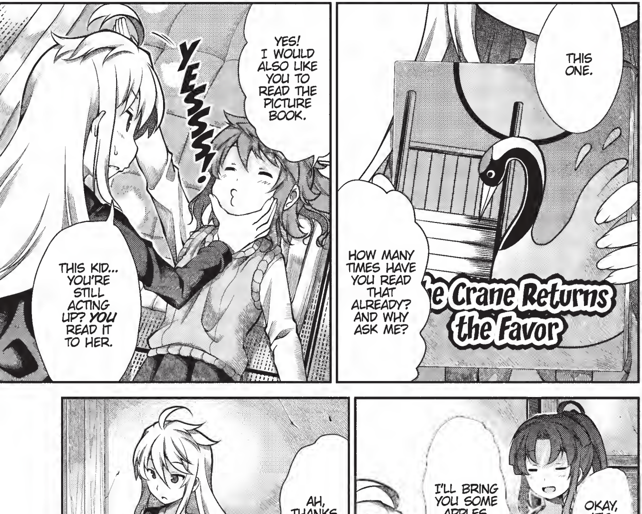

DID YOU MAYBE COME TO SEE REN-CHON, TOO, SWEET SHOP LADY?
I JUST STOPPED IN 'COS I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THAT'S ALL.
WOW. YOU CHARGE IN LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE "JUST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD"?
YEP.
YEAH, THE ONLY REASONABLE ASSUMPTION HERE IS THAT SHE WAS WORRIED AND CAME TO VISIT RENGE.
I-IT'S NOT THAT!! I CAME TO BRING THE PILLOW!! THE ONE SEMPAI ASKED ME FOR!!
OH! TOMORROW WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE, YOU KNOW. WELL, I'LL GO GET MY CASH...
AH, CRAP!! I FORGOT TO BRING THE PILLOW!!
HUH?
SKREE
AND CAN THOSE BE SNACKS? YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE THEM TO REN-CHON?
RUSTLE
HUH? OH...
SNACKS?
CAN I HAVE THEM?
W-WELL, SURE, I GUESS.

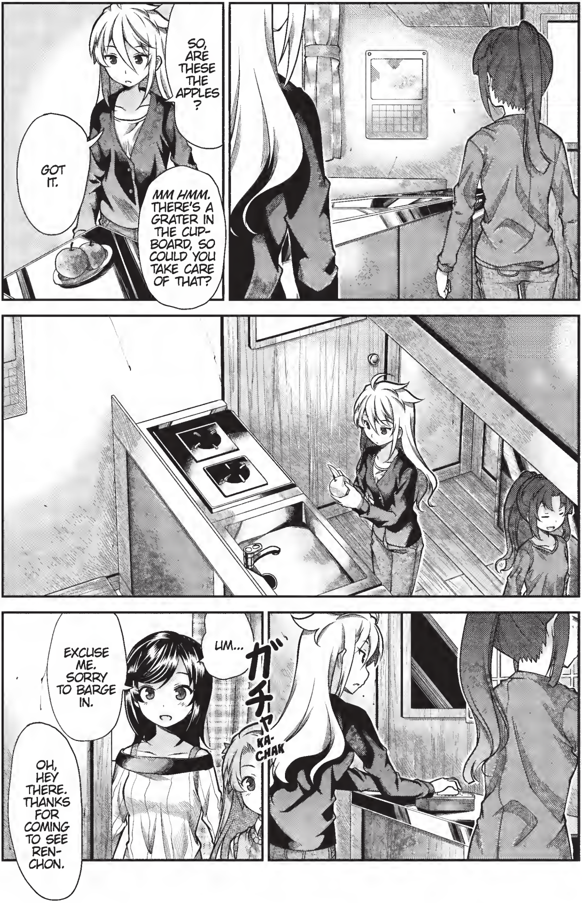

カ゛サ
KRSSH
サ
SUPER
Noshiume
Retasu Taro
Cola
THAT'S A LOT.
LUCKY YOU, HUH, REN-CHAN?
THEN I'LL JUST TAKE THIS AND THIS!
WAH!!
HEY! I BROUGHT THOSE FOR RENGE...
OH HO!
SO YOU DID COME TO SEE REN-CHON?
HO HO!

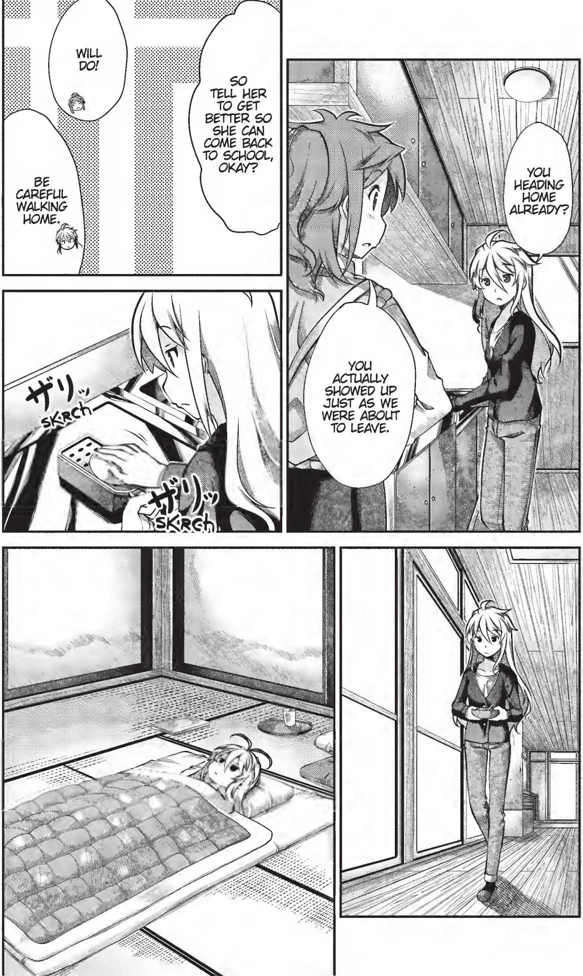
Miyauchi Kazuho: She's always napping, so she's got to be careful not to catch a cold.

Koshigaya Suguru: Thanks to his daily kung fu regimen, no cold has ever dared to come near him.


BWA HA HA HA!! LOOKIT YOU TRYING TO PLAY IT ALL COOL!!
アッハハ HA HA
ハハハ HA HA HA
SO YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT HER!
JEEZ, IF YOU'D JUST *SAID* THAT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE MESSED WITH YOU!
アハッ HA HA!
YOU SURE GOT AN ANNOYING PERSONALITY, SWEET SHOP LADY!
アハハ HA HA!!
HA FWAH FH--
TH-THANK YOU.
OH, KOMARI, HOTARU-CHAN, GO AHEAD AND HAVE SOME SNACKS.
THIS KID GETS ZIP, THOUGH.
FWAH?
SWEET SHOP LADY, I WANT YOU TO READ ME A PICTURE BOOK.
A PICTURE BOOK?


THIS ONE.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU READ THAT ALREADY? AND WHY ASK ME?
e Crane Returns the Favor
YES! I WOULD ALSO LIKE YOU TO READ THE PICTURE BOOK.
YESSS!
THIS KID... YOU'RE STILL ACTING UP? *YOU* READ IT TO HER.
OKAY, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO MAKE SUPPER.
I'LL BRING YOU SOME APPLES, REN-CHON.
OOH! APPLES!
I'LL HELP. YOU GOT A LOT ON YOUR PLATE.
AH, THANKS.
NO PROB.

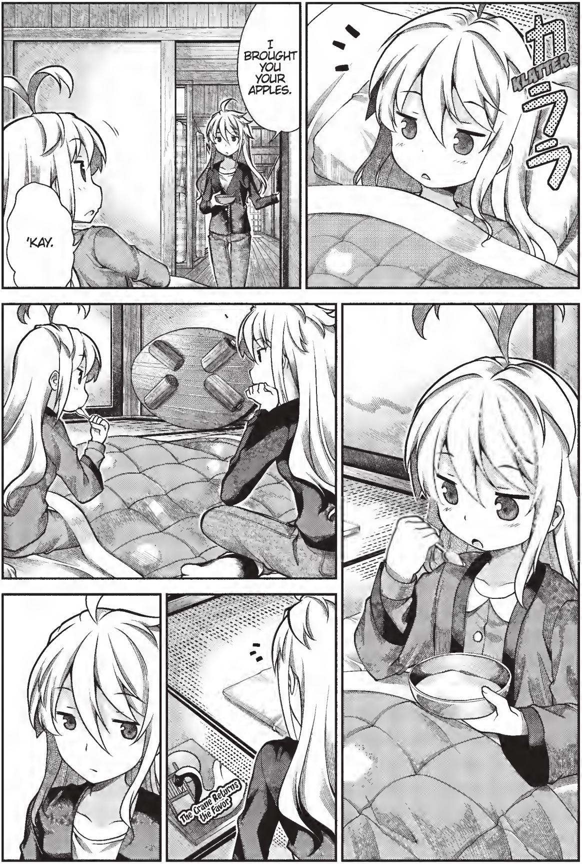

SO, ARE THESE THE APPLES?
MM HMM. THERE'S A GRATER IN THE CUPBOARD, SO COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT?
GOT IT.
UM...
ガチャ KA-CHAK
EXCUSE ME. SORRY TO BARGE IN.
OH, HEY THERE. THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE RENCHON.

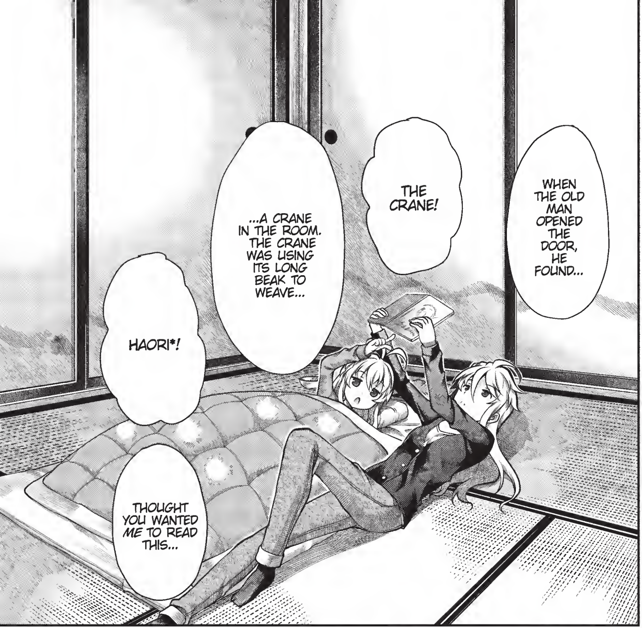

YOU HEADING HOME ALREADY?
YOU ACTUALLY SHOWED UP JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE.
SO TELL HER TO GET BETTER SO SHE CAN COME BACK TO SCHOOL, OKAY?
WILL DO!
BE CAREFUL WALKING HOME.
ザリッ SKRCH
ザリッ SKRCH

FACTOID Applesauce: If there's one thing you should eat when you catch a cold, it's applesauce. Apples are full of minerals and dietary fiber, and grating them into a sauce allows for effective uptake of that fiber, protects the mucous membranes, and helps the movement of the intestines.

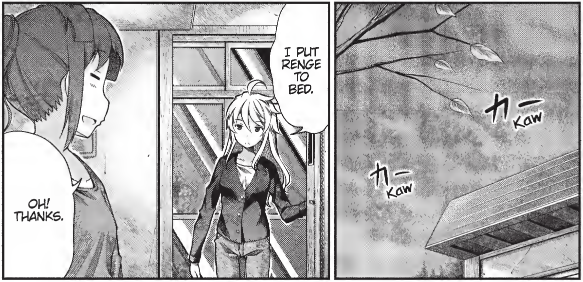
FACTOID

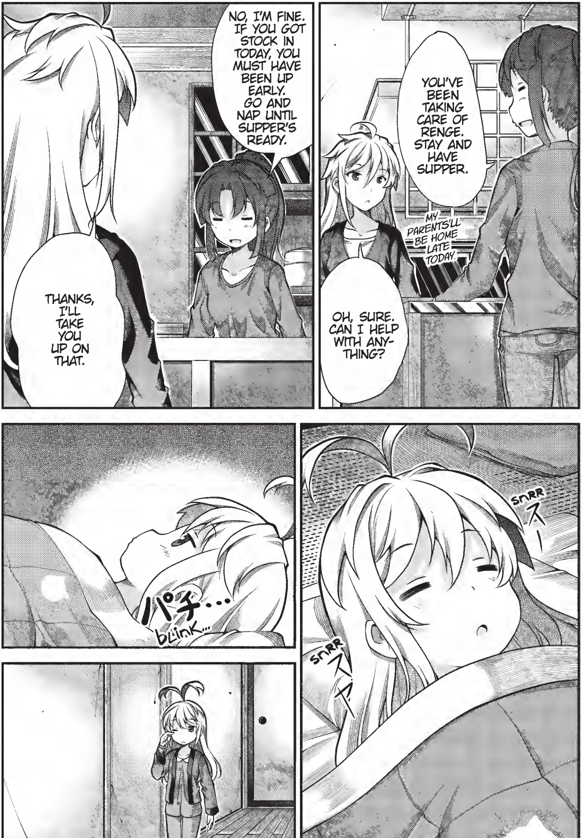
The Crane Returns the Favor: A Japanese fairytale. After an old man (or a young man) saves a crane caught in a trap, she appears at his home in the form of a beautiful young woman to pay back the debt. The young woman says, "You must never look inside my room," but... The psychology of excessive desire for something forbidden is known as the Caligula Effect.

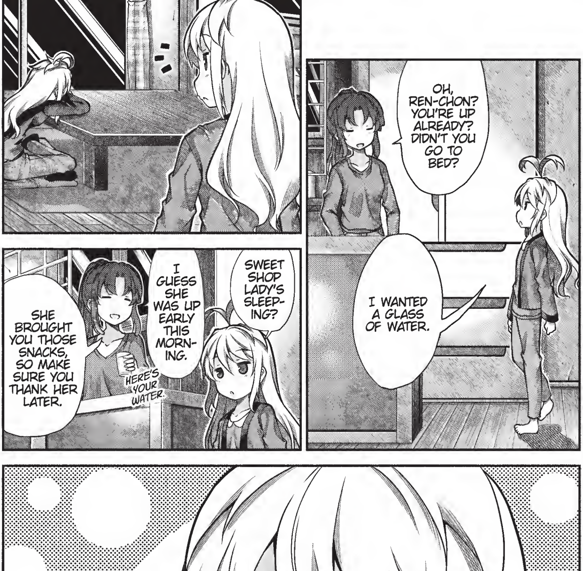

カタッ
KLATTER
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR APPLES.
'KAY.
The Crane Returns the Favor

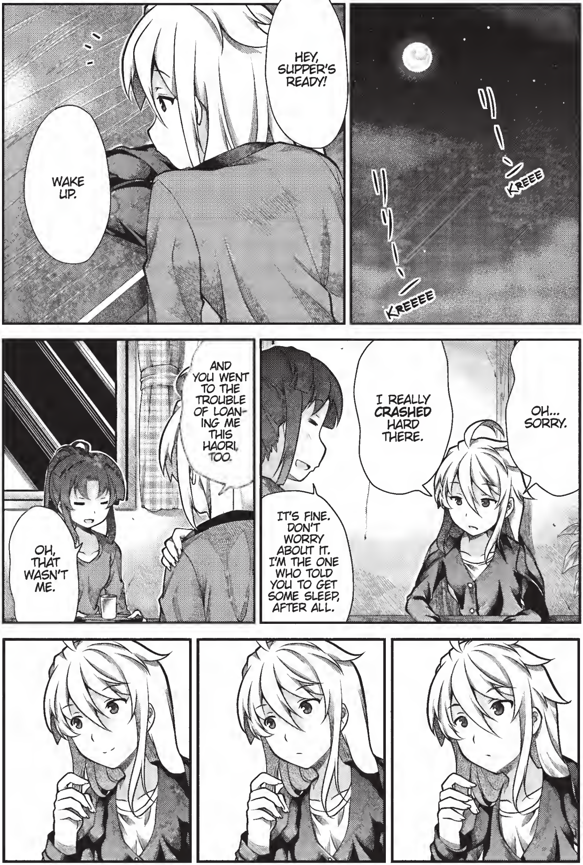

WHEN THE OLD MAN OPENED THE DOOR, HE FOUND...
THE CRANE!
...A CRANE IN THE ROOM. THE CRANE WAS USING ITS LONG BEAK TO WEAVE...
HAORI*!
THOUGHT YOU WANTED *ME* TO READ THIS...

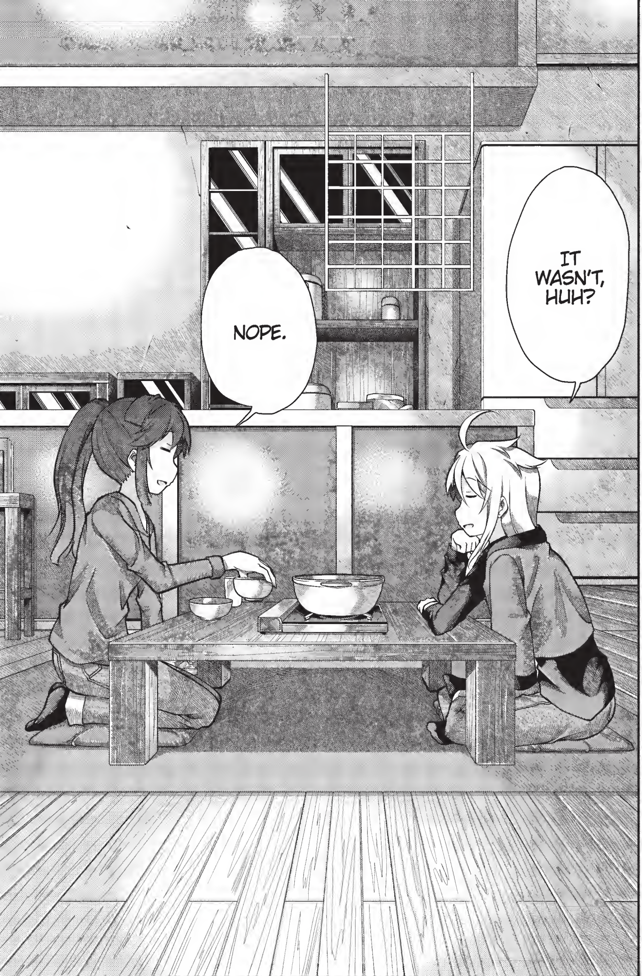
A haori is a jacket worn over a kimono.


カー Kaw
カー Kaw
I PUT RENGE TO BED.
OH! THANKS.


YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF RENGE. STAY AND HAVE SUPPER.
MY PARENTS'LL BE HOME LATE TODAY.
OH, SURE. CAN I HELP WITH ANYTHING?
NO, I'M FINE. IF YOU GOT STOCK IN TODAY, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN UP EARLY. GO AND NAP UNTIL SUPPER'S READY.
THANKS, I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.
snrr スー
snrr スヤ
パチ…
blink…


OH, REN-CHON? YOU'RE UP ALREADY? DIDN'T YOU GO TO BED?
I WANTED A GLASS OF WATER.
SWEET SHOP LADY'S SLEEPING?
I GUESS SHE WAS UP EARLY THIS MORNING.
HERE'S YOUR WATER.
SHE BROUGHT YOU THOSE SNACKS, SO MAKE SURE YOU THANK HER LATER.
Oh ~…


KREEE
KREEEE
HEY, SUPPER'S READY!
WAKE UP.
OH... SORRY.
I REALLY **CRASHED** HARD THERE.
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO GET SOME SLEEP, AFTER ALL.
AND YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF LOANING ME THIS HAORI, TOO.
OH, THAT WASN'T ME.


IT WASN'T, HUH?
NOPE.

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Non Non Biyori

Special *Non Non Biyori* Character Interviews

① Miyauchi Renge
② Ichijo Hotaru
③ Koshigaya Natsumi
④ Koshigaya Komari
⑤ Miyauchi Kazuho
⑥ Miyauchi Hikage
⑦ Kagayama Kaede
⑧ Fujimiya Konomi

We present to you special *Non Non Biyori* character interviews carried out in the pages of the magazine *Comic Alive!* From their favorite things to unexpected habits..?! A chance to get to see a new side of everyone! ♪

1

Special Interview Miyauchi Renge

Q: What's something exciting you did recently?
Watching a crow do battle with a scarecrow. The crow didn't even give the scarecrow a chance to hit back...

Q: What are you into lately?
I'm super into chasing ants. I followed a long line of them, and found a candy on the ground. My assumption is that Koma-chan dropped it.

Q: What are you worried about lately?
My back tooth is loose. I don't really get the meaning of something boney falling out.

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?
Nee-nee's a teacher, so I wanna be a teacher, too! But I'll be different from Nee-nee! I won't allow anything less than 2B for pencils!

Q: What's your favorite kind of weather?
It's fun to catch bugs and play in the river when it's warm outside, so I like sunny days the best!

Q: Tell me why!
I was too enthusiastic and told you my reason already...

Q: What do you like to do on rainy days?
I make TeruTeruBozus and do the opposite of praying for rain. If you draw Nee-nee's face on them, it'll probably be sunny the next day. So I make a lot of Nee-nee Bozus on rainy days!

Q: What's your favorite color?
I like warm colors. I co-ordi-nate my clothes with warm colors.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
Right now, I like the sound of "sweeping generalizations," to the point where I want to name all the rabbits at school Sweeping Generalizations. But I don't really understand what it means. It just sounds grand.

Special Interview Ichijo Hotaru

Q: Do you like summer? Or do you hate it?
I like summer. All the green is so beautiful...

Q: What do you want to do over summer break this year?
Umm... I want to go swimming in the river!

Q: What's your favorite color?
I like relaxed colors. Cream, green, stuff like that.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
Maybe "Get good at the things you like."

Q: What are you into lately?
Making stuffed Komaris. Right now, I'm working on a yukata version!

Q: What are you worried about lately?
I'm wondering if I'll just keep getting taller...

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Non Non Biyori

3

Special Interview Koshigaya Natsumi

Q: What's your favorite kind of ramen?
If it's instant, tonkotsu, and if we go out to eat at a restaurant, then maybe soy sauce.
You get a good flavor with tonkotsu even with instant noodles. Oh! Now I want some ramen.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
Ramen, yakiniku, allowance, snacks, vacation, summer break, winter break, spring break... Huh? A single phrase? That'd be impossible to choose.

Q: What are you into lately?
It's summer, so that's the season for catching bugs. I wonder what I'll catch. It's fun catching cicadas, but creatures around the water and stuff are good, too. Maybe I'll build an elaborate fish tank.

Q: Please tell us a recent concern.
Why do I get zeros? I answer every question. It's a mystery.

Q: This is the season when we see a lot of typhoons, so what do you do on typhoon days?
I hate typhoons 'cause you can't go outside. Konomi-chan'll sneak out and come hang, so I guess basically we play video games with Nee-chan.

Q: The new school term starts in September. Do you have any goals for it?
My test scores--Oh, no, wait, that's impossible. So I hope to not catch a cold and to be healthy.

Q: What's the next prank you're planning?
I don't really play pranks or anything. I just get yelled at by Mom while I'm playing for some reason.

Q: If you had to name a sport you particularly liked, what would it be, and why?
Does dodgeball count as a sport? When it comes to dodgeball-- dodging, defending-- I'm an all-rounder!

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
I don't really think about it too much. Anything other than dirty colors is fine.

4

Special Interview Koshigaya Komari

Q: What is something you do every day or something you started doing recently as a "grown-up woman"?
As a grown-up woman, I drink milk every day. Also, apparently, it's good for you to wear slippers without heels, so lately, I started doing that. Isn't it pretty grown-up to pay attention to things like that?!

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
Pink, maybe. I feel sort of stylish when I wear pink clothes.

Q: Please tell us a recent concern.
I'm not getting taller at all... I couldn't actually be shrinking or anything, right?

Q: We often say, "fall is for sports," or, "fall is for art," but what would you say fall is for, Komari, and why?
I guess fall would have to be for fashion? I wish I could go to the department store and buy some clothes.

Q: What scary thing happened this summer?
A scary thing... The video I watched the other day was scary... And the bug that appeared out of nowhere was scary... And I had nightmares, too... Oh, wait, I'm not scared of anything!

Q: They say fall is for food, so what's something tasty you ate recently?
The crépe I had when we went into town was really good. But it takes a huge amount of time just to go and eat crépes...

Q: What kind of person is the ideal "grown-up woman" you strive to be?
That person I met a little while ago and went to the sweet shop with! I guess she came from Tokyo; she was really grown-up.

5
Special
Interview
Miyauchi
Kazuho

Q: What's your favorite dish to have with rice?
I guess that'd be vegetables picked from our fields pickled in homemade miso. That is the absolute best.

Q: What's your favorite kind of ramen?
If it's instant, tonkotsu, and if we go out to eat at a restaurant, then maybe soy sauce. You get a good flavor with tonkotsu even with instant noodles. Oh! Now I want some ramen.

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
Color? I don't really think about that. I guess I like the color of the rice paddies in fall.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
I'm gonna sleep on it!

Q: Please tell us a recent concern.
There are no long holidays in fall, so I won't be able to sleep...

Q: Now that it's November, it's cooler, and I think that makes it easier to sleep. What's the best way to sleep?
Sleeping all curled up in a thick duvet is the best. I could sleep that way forever.

Q: Of all the times people have woken you up, is there any one time that made the strongest impression on you?
This isn't quite the same thing, but once I woke up repeatedly and thought it was night forever, but it turned out to be a sleeping bag over my head. I went to sleep in a futon, so it's still a mystery how I ended up in a sleeping bag. Does anyone know?

Q: What is the longest period of time you've ever slept at once?
I fell asleep after playing outside with Ren-chon and slept for twenty-five hours. But when I looked at the clock, I thought only an hour had passed, so I slept another seven hours.

Q: It's the season for viewing the fall leaves. Is there a place near your house or school where the leaves are especially beautiful?
Our mountain is full of fall leaves. There are chestnuts and persimmons, too. And in the spring, we can pull up bamboo shoots, too.

6

Special Interview Miyauchi Hikage

Q: What are your most and least favorite classes?
I guess I'm good at math. But just because I'm good at it doesn't mean I like it. But I study, so I get good grades.

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
Maybe black? Why? No particular reason... If I had to say, I feel like it's easier to blend in in the city in black or white.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
She sells sea shells by the seashore. I've never managed to say it right once, though.

Q: What are you into lately?
Going to see the famous places in Tokyo, I guess. I want to go to Skytree next. That's the captain of Tokyo buildings, right? Crap.

Q: Please tell us a recent concern.
I feel like Renge's looking down on me a little. I gotta do something before I end up like Nee-chan.

Q: How do you spend Christmas?
Just hanging out with my friends.

Q: What Christmas present were you happiest to get?
I don't remember being overly happy about a present. I'll never forget when I wanted a video game and I got a reference book, though.

Q: What surprised you when you first came to Tokyo?
That there are so many buildings around Tokyo Station. That freaked me out. I was like, who made them all, you know?

Q: Is there any story about Tokyo you'd like to tell Renge and the others?
So, like, in Tokyo, there are convenience stores right around the corner from convenience stores. Do you get how amazing that is? Or maybe not?

Q: What's a must-have item for winter in Tokyo?
I thought that it never snows in Tokyo. But it snows like crazy. Shoes that don't slip are maybe a must-have?

7

Special Interview Kagayama Kaede

Q: Is there any particularly memorable episode from when you used to watch Renge when she was little?
I wonder... Maybe the first time she said my name. That time, she totally called me by name. Although, thanks to Natsumi, they all just call me Sweet Shop Lady now.

Q: What are your favorite and least favorite foods?
As long as I have beer and finger food, I can't complain.

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
Most of the clothes I usually wear are black. It's a safe color.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
Get rich quick.

Q: What's a popular treat at your store right now?
Renge often buys the chocolates in the shape of money.

Q: Do you have a personal favorite treat?
I like spicy snacks better than sweet ones. Like *suika* squid.

Q: In addition to the sweet shop, you also do contract mail order work. What's a product you ordered recently that made an impression on you?
Hotaru-chan's mother ordered a vacuum cleaner that works automatically. Isn't that, like, crazy expensive?

Q: Do you give Renge *otoshidama* money at New Year's? (If you do, how much?)
Well, Renge's still in elementary school, so about a thousand yen. If I give some to Renge, I end up having to give some to Hikage, too.

8

Special Interview Fujimiya Konomi

Q: What subjects are you best and worst at?
I'm in band, so clearly, I like music. And I'm good at history, too. But that's just memorization.

Q: What are your favorite and least favorite foods?
I guess I like salad with a salty dressing? Na-chan and the others don't believe me when I say I like salad, but it really is good.

Q: What's your favorite color, and why?
I like white. I don't really have a reason. It just seems fresh.

Q: What's your favorite phrase?
Follow through.

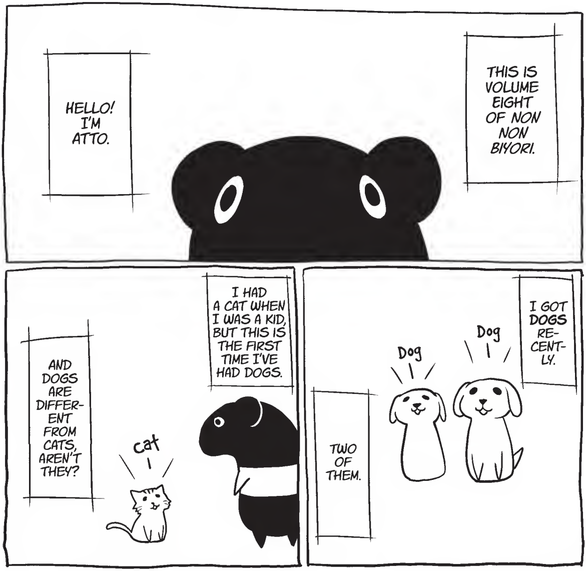
Q: Your house is next door to the Koshigayas, so you've known each other for a long time. What kinds of things do you remember about Komari and Natsumi from when they were little?
I feel like back then, Nacchan used to cry way more than Komari-chan.

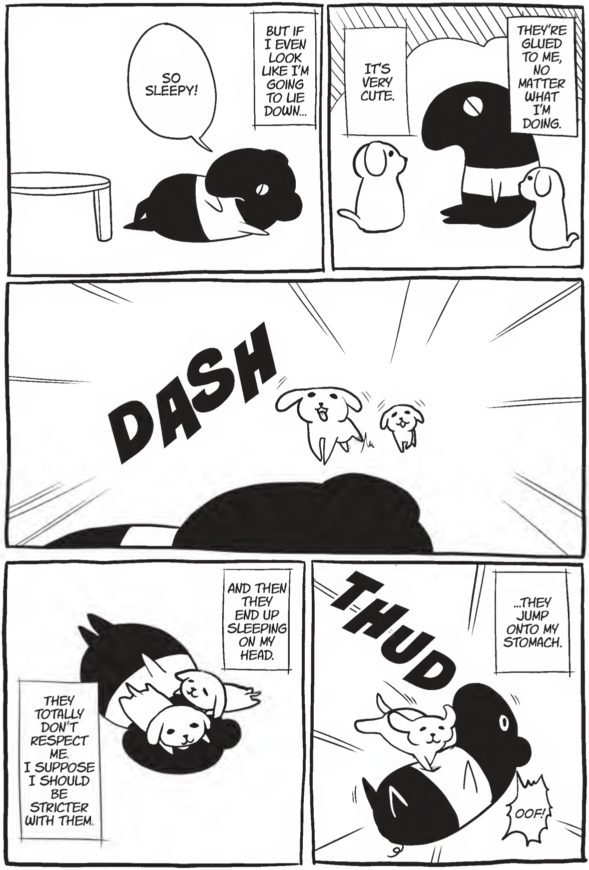
Q: Are there any memorable incidents from when you were attending Asahigaoka Branch School?
I guess that'd have to be when Renge-chan spilled the curry. It was really tough to get everything back under control after that.

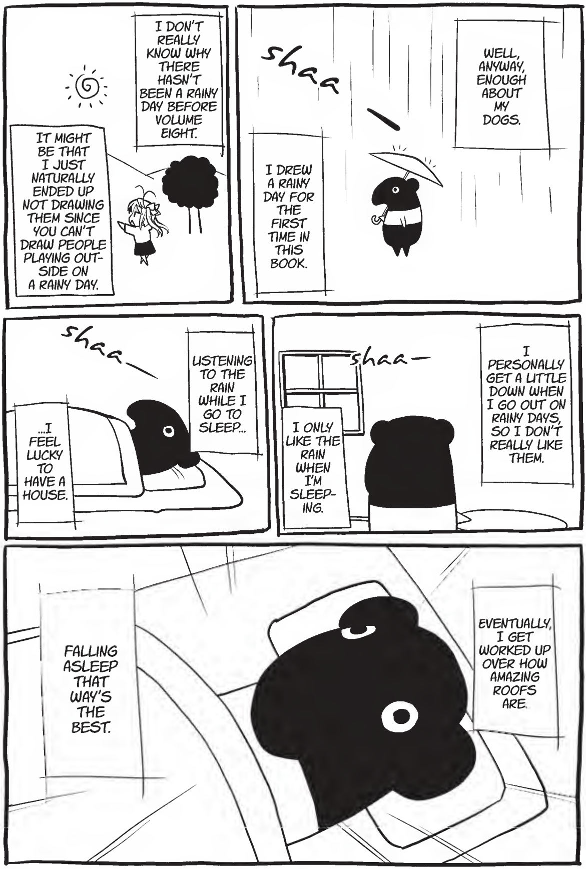
Q: When do you normally deploy the "verbal prowess" you used to invite Miyauchi Hikage to the Asahigaoka Branch School festival?
That technique's perfect for someone who normal persuasion doesn't work on. Like Hikage-chan or Kaede-chan.

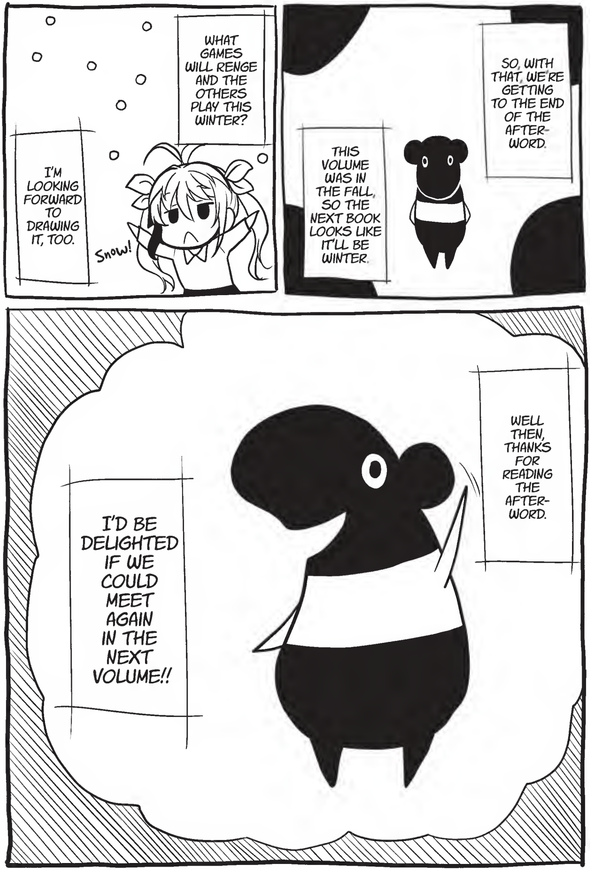
Q: What clothing do you want right now?
It's getting to be time to pick up some winter things. The coats I like are basically too expensive, so I get depressed.

AFTERWORD


THIS IS VOLUME EIGHT OF NON NON BIYORI.
HELLO! I'M ATTO.
I GOT DOGS RECENTLY.
Dog
Dog
TWO OF THEM.
I HAD A CAT WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD DOGS.
cat
AND DOGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM CATS, AREN'T THEY?


THEY'RE GLUED TO ME, NO MATTER WHAT I'M DOING.
IT'S VERY CUTE.
BUT IF I EVEN LOOK LIKE I'M GOING TO LIE DOWN...
SO SLEEPY!
DASH
...THEY JUMP ONTO MY STOMACH.
THUD
OOF!
AND THEN THEY END UP SLEEPING ON MY HEAD.
THEY TOTALLY DON'T RESPECT ME. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE STRICTER WITH THEM.


shaa
WELL, ANYWAY, ENOUGH ABOUT MY DOGS.
I DREW A RAINY DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS BOOK.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY THERE HASN'T BEEN A RAINY DAY BEFORE VOLUME EIGHT.
IT MIGHT BE THAT I JUST NATURALLY ENDED UP NOT DRAWING THEM SINCE YOU CAN'T DRAW PEOPLE PLAYING OUTSIDE ON A RAINY DAY.
shaa–
I PERSONALLY GET A LITTLE DOWN WHEN I GO OUT ON RAINY DAYS, SO I DON'T REALLY LIKE THEM.
I ONLY LIKE THE RAIN WHEN I'M SLEEPING.
shaa–
LISTENING TO THE RAIN WHILE I GO TO SLEEP...
...I FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE A HOUSE.
EVENTUALLY, I GET WORKED UP OVER HOW AMAZING ROOFS ARE.
FALLING ASLEEP THAT WAY'S THE BEST.


SO, WITH THAT, WE'RE GETTING TO THE END OF THE AFTERWORD.
THIS VOLUME WAS IN THE FALL, SO THE NEXT BOOK LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE WINTER.
WHAT GAMES WILL RENGE AND THE OTHERS PLAY THIS WINTER?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO DRAWING IT, TOO.
Snow!
WELL THEN, THANKS FOR READING THE AFTERWORD.
I'D BE DELIGHTED IF WE COULD MEET AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME!!

non non biyori

5

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Non Non Biyori

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atto

8

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Non Non Biyori

story and art by **ATTO**

volume 8

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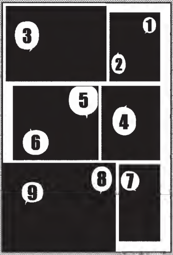
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Miyauchi Renge
First grader, the youngest of the five students at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses an orthodox plastic ruler. Also uses it for arithmetic.

Koshigaya Natsumi
Seventh grader at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses a green/red memorization ruler (which blocks the red answers in the textbook). Never once has she used it as originally intended.

Koshigaya Komari
Natsumi's older sister, eighth grader at Asahigaoka Branch School. Uses a bamboo ruler. A gem that she inherited from her mother, it's been passed down through the generations of the Koshigaya family.

Ichijo Hotaru
Fifth grade transfer student from Tokyo. Uses an isosceles triangle ruler from a ruler set. It was selected with balance in mind.

ALL AGES

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